

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: *Red-shouldered Hawk in the yard of Carolyn Fischer in Mason City on 3 December 2000 and 10 February 2001. Photo by Carolyn Fischer.*  
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## C O N T E N T S

Meet an Iowa Birder — Jan Walter <i>by Rita Goranson</i>	58
In Summer, How Close are Spotted Towhees to Iowa and to Eastern Towhees? <i>by Ross Silcock</i>	61
Iowa Christmas Bird Count — 2000–2001 <i>by Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	64
Field Report — Winter 2000–2001 <i>by Robert I. Cecil</i>	84
Records from the Past <i>by Thomas H. Kent</i>	96
Anhinga at Dudgeon Park in Benton County <i>by Francis L. Moore</i>	102
Timothy J. Schantz—1964–2001 <i>by Ann Johnson</i>	103
Book Review <i>by Richard Hollis</i>	105
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	106
IOU Spring Board Meeting	107
Treasurer's Report	109

# Meet an Iowa Birder — Jan Walter

Rita Goranson

*Jan Walter and her life partner and birding partner, Jim Walter, spent over 100 hours in the late 1980s working on the Breeding Bird Atlas blocks to which they had been assigned. Jan's philosophy throughout her birding years has been "to try and give something back to the birds, as well as to enjoy the birds and their activities." This giving back, for Jan, has meant participating in many surveys, active field reporting, and daily and weekly monitoring of Iowa birds.*

Born and raised in the Sioux City area of Iowa, Jan graduated from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in 1949. She and Jim married in 1946 and, other than a year in Texas and three years in South Dakota, they spent their married life in Iowa. They had three children: Norma, Craig who died of spinal cord cancer in 1974, and Nancy. Jan's story cannot be told without telling Jim's story too because they birded as a team.

Both Jan and Jim always were interested in nature and birds, and Jan remembers that her first bird guide was the center pages of the *Des Moines Register* that featured an article on Iowa birds. Jan's parents retired to Florida, and when they visited her parents, they would travel to areas like Pompano Beach, the Everglades, and Key West and look at birds and nature in these places. However, Jan did not become "hooked," as she likes to say, until 1967–1968 when daughter Norma was a sophomore in high school. Norma's biology project was to see ten or more species of birds. Because their daughter was too young to drive, Jim and Jan took her out with a Peterson's



*Jan Walter*

guide and binoculars to tally up ten species. The project changed their lives forever. From then on, a Sunday afternoon activity for Jan and Jim was driving to good habitat and listing birds.

In 1977, they joined the local Lime Creek Nature Club in Mason City. This club had just been formed and Jan has belonged to it since that second meeting when she and Jim joined. Through the club, they participated in field trips to locate and identify Iowa birds and to help promote the Nature Center. When the Nature Center needed volunteers to help with its barbecue fund raiser, Jan and Jim signed on and continued to help for many years at the barbecue.

It was through this club that they learned of the work on the *Breeding Bird Atlas* survey. They signed up to monitor five blocks of their own; one for each of six years. (One block was done two years in a row.) Jan proudly showed me her notes and block cards that were filled with information front and back. Jim and Jan worked diligently and did their own blocks and then helped on five other blocks. That is how they logged well over 100 hours on the project.

Through the local club, Jan and Jim learned too of the breeding bird survey conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior in June of each year. When the local Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employee who did the route moved out of the state in 1989, they took over the survey route. When the interstate went through this route, Jan was the one who not only informed the government of the disruption to the route, but took the time to investigate and to recommend a new route, which the government happily endorsed. Since Jim's death in 1993, Jan has continued to assist in the survey, doing the paper tallying for the new coordinator.

In 1986, Jim and Jan joined the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) and began attending the annual spring and fall meetings. In 1988, they helped the local Nature Club to host the IOU spring meeting in Mason City. Jan and Jim enjoyed the contact with other members of the IOU and the chance to bird other parts of Iowa, so much so, that they attended each and every meeting until Jim's death in 1993. Jan continued to attend these events and to enjoy other birding areas of Iowa.

During this time, Jan began to file field reports to the IOU and to encourage the other active club members to do so too. Jan felt strongly that reports from the northern part of the state were needed in the records of the IOU to provide a total picture of Iowa birds. In fact, this author was one she hounded until it was easier to do the

report than to answer to Jan for not having done it! Jan documented the first Magnificent Frigatebird, Black Rail, Sprague's Pipit, and Yellow-billed Loon in Cerro Gordo County.

In the late 1980s, a group of local birders began going out every Wednesday. Jan and Jim were part of this group. Consistently going out in a county and checking for the birds there not only increased the list of birds that have been seen in the county, but it made the group aware of some choice migration routes in the county. Today, birding with the Wednesday group is Jan's main bird watching trip each week, despite the fact that the group has dwindled down to two or three people. She also carefully monitors any and all birds visiting her yard and feeders. She is very aware of the declining numbers of birds locally. She remembers when she would see flocks of warblers in her yard. At one time, she had eight Canada warblers in her backyard. Now she feels she is lucky to see a few Canada warblers anywhere each season.

For the past three years, Jan has helped with the Iowa Sandhill Crane Count through the DNR and the International Crane Foundation. She has helped for three years on the Trail Bird Count through the Nongame Department of the DNR. Beginning in the late 1990s, Jan has helped with the survey, "Birds in Forested Landscapes," conducted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. In this survey, wood thrushes and accipters are monitored in forests of fifty acres or more. One year of the survey also included a survey for the Scarlet Tanager. Jan continues to help with these surveys and enjoys them because they offer opportunities to bird during migration when she can view other birds making their way through Iowa.

During all of these activities, the Walters were able to travel to Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon, along with taking a cruise to a number of areas in South America, listing birds as they traveled. More recently, Jan has been to the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and to the Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota. She is excitedly anticipating two trips this year. She will travel to Arizona and later to Alaska in her quest for new birds to enjoy.

Jan has had to deal not only with the loss of Jim, but with several deaths in her family. Throughout these trying times, her bird activities have helped her to carry on despite the losses. It has given her something to focus on and to think about, other than family.

Jan is especially proud of her six grandchildren. They have provided Jan the opportunity to expose them to the world of nature and of birds in particular. When they were younger, they accompanied their

grandmother on outings or sat with her at the window to view the backyard and the feeders. Visiting them in their own environments has given her additional birding experiences in Iowa.

In my opinion, we need more bird watchers, like Jan Walter, who actively help to ensure that there are documents and records of Iowa birds left for future generations. Birders, who spend nearly as much time surveying and reporting on birds, as they do listing and enjoying birds.

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## **In Summer, How Close are Spotted Towhees to Iowa and to Eastern Towhees?**

*Ross Silcock*

*The Spotted Towhee (Pipilo maculatus) is closely related to the Eastern Towhee (P. erythrophthalmus); so closely, in fact, that the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) considered them a single species as recently as 1983 (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), but split them (again; see American Ornithologists' Union 1957) in 1998 (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). The cause of this confusion was the well-known observation that the two forms hybridized where their ranges met. This in itself is not confusing, except maybe to the birds themselves, but taxonomists are unable to agree on the minimum amount of hybridization necessary to indicate that taxa are sufficiently differentiated to be considered separate species.*

As with several east-west species pairs on the northern Great Plains, the towhees only interbreed to a limited extent, and, where interbreeding does occur, pure birds of either species also occur. This latter fact indicates that hybridization is not totally random, that individual birds actually have some preference for their own type. This is known as assortative mating, and is considered evidence for a significant degree of differentiation between taxa; the presence of at least 20% pure phenotypes in a towhee hybrid zone was considered sufficient by the AOU to indicate species status of the interacting taxa (DeBenedictis 1996). It usually is assumed that drift in the gene pools of the two taxa while they were separated by the grasslands of the Great Plains resulted in enough differentiation to cause some resistance in interbreeding once they were brought into contact by westward encroachment of vegetation along river valleys. The big question is: now that they are together again, will they merge their gene pools? That's where we, as amateur ornithologists, can make a contribution.

We, or at least Kent and Dinsmore (1996), know that the breeding towhees in Iowa are Eastern Towhees, although there are few data from the area of most interest — northwestern Iowa. Youngworth (1960), careful observer that he was, noted the occurrence in summer of both towhees at Yankton, South Dakota on 6 July 1931. Spotted predominated and he collected at least one specimen of Spotted Towhee there. Youngworth thought that the Spotted Towhee's breeding range followed the Missouri River Valley southeastward, suggesting a provenance for the birds near Yankton. Interestingly, Youngworth (1960) also stated that he had checked the towhees breeding at Ponca State Park in northeastern Nebraska, about 40 miles to the east of Yankton along the Missouri River and found only Eastern Towhees. Although Youngworth mentioned a specimen that had features of both forms, he did not specifically discuss hybridization between them at any length. Short (1961), however, found hybrids south to Blair in eastern Nebraska, and Sibley and West (1959) placed the mid-point of the hybrid zone in northeastern Nebraska midway between Blair and the mouth of the Niobrara River.

The current situation in northeastern Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001) suggests that the Spotted Towhee has spread eastward since Youngworth's time, which is somewhat at odds with the generally accepted idea that eastern taxa of east-west species pairs made contact as a result of westward movement of the eastern member of the pair



in river valleys. Spotted Towhees now are rather numerous at Ponca State Park, and can easily be found as far southeast in northeastern Nebraska at the Ashford Boy Scout Camp on the boundary between Dakota and Thurston counties. This latter location is across the Missouri River floodplain from Woodbury County, Iowa, at best, a distance of 1 to 2 miles, but it is about 12 miles from the nearest Iowa woodland of any extent. The distribution of Spotted Towhee in northeastern Nebraska suggests spread of Spotted genes east and south in the wooded bluffs along the west side of the Missouri River Valley. In the process, some hybrids have been produced, but some pure Spotted Towhees (along with many Easterns) are present, indicating that assortative mating is taking place and that Spotted and Eastern towhees are probably distinct enough to warrant species status.

In the hybrid zone in northeastern Nebraska, the range of songs is rather bewildering, from pure Eastern "drink-your-tea" to Spotted "chip-trill." While these odd songs are a good indication that in a given patch of woods something funny is going on with the towhees, we know that songs are for the most part learned and may not accurately indicate that the singer is indeed a hybrid. Checking such areas in northeastern Nebraska, however, usually shows that birds of intermediate plumage indeed do occur. For the most part, these birds resemble Eastern Towhees, but have various degrees of white spotting on the mantle, scapulars, and wing coverts as well as showing reduction in extent of the white spot at the base of the primaries exhibited by Eastern Towhee. Any such birds should be checked for call-notes, which tend to be innate rather than learned. Observers can make an important contribution by carefully counting numbers of pure birds of each species and hybrids, and, especially, frequency of mixed and pure pairs.

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## Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2000–2001

*Stephen J. Dinsmore*

The 2000–2001 Iowa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) included 41 counts (Table 1), the same as last year. There were two new counts this year (Springbrook and Carroll) and the Union County and Van Buren County counts were not run because of adverse weather. These 41 counts recorded a total of 128 species, slightly below the average of about 130 species over last ten years. The total number of birds counted was 280,253, nearly 56% lower than the 10-year average of 437,000 birds.



*S. J. Dinsmore*

Unlike last year, the fall period was unseasonably cold and snowy. The only count experiencing above-freezing temperatures on

count day was Westfield. Counts conducted on the first weekend experienced mixed weather as a blizzard moved east across the state. Blizzard conditions returned to the state for both the second and third weekends of the count period, meaning most counts this year experienced very wintry weather. Consequently, species totals generally were lower this year. Leading the counts was Saylorville Reservoir with 80 species; Keokuk (76) and Burlington (70) were the only other counts to reach 70 species. Mississippi River counts experienced average species totals, probably helped by the presence of some open water. The highest Missouri River count was De Soto National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (60), although at least a couple of their reports were undocumented. Counts in the Northern Third were about average, led by Decorah (50). Despite the cold count period, several counts in the Middle Third did very well including Cedar Rapids (65) and Boone County (63). Rathbun (56) led the way in the Southern Third. This year, the average count (52 species) included 12 observers in five parties. These figures are all slightly lower than last year.

#### REGULAR SPECIES

The following discussion refers to species listed in Tables 2 and 3. To put this information in perspective, I often have compared this year's totals with the average yearly total for all Iowa CBCs over the previous ten years. But remember that effort (the number of CBCs conducted) also has varied over this time period, causing comparisons across years to be less straightforward. Reports of rare species are listed in Table 3.

Waterbird numbers were down this year, probably a return to more normal numbers after mild weather the previous two winters. Pied-billed Grebes were reported in only two counts this year; singles were at Keokuk and Cedar Rapids. Despite the cold weather, a surprising six American White Pelicans were found on three counts along the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers. Five Double-crested Cormorants were reported from three counts, their worst showing since 1989–1990. Only 52 Great Blue Herons were reported, well below the average of 85. As expected, most (34; 65% of total) were found along the Mississippi River.

It was a poor year for waterfowl, especially the diving ducks. The statewide total of eight Greater White-fronted Geese was only slightly below normal; singles in Bremer and Boone counties were

unusual. Snow Geese had their worst showing in recent memory with only 70 counted statewide. Oddly, most of these (63: 90% of total) were along the Mississippi River. Not surprisingly, there were no Ross's Geese detected this year. Canada Geese had another good year with 25,802 birds, but were still well below the average of 32,200 and reached their lowest total since 1993–1994. As expected, most (14,303: 55% of total) were in the Middle Third. Only seven counts missed Canada Goose this year. Swans were widespread this year with totals of 17 Trumpeter Swans and four unidentified swans (probably all Trumpeters). Dabbling ducks were unusually scarce. New 10-year lows were set for Wood Duck (6), American Wigeon (4), American Black Duck (57), Mallard (18,577), Northern Shoveler (1), and Northern Pintail (8). The two other dabblers (Gadwall and Green-winged Teal) also were well below their 10-year averages. As expected, most American Black Ducks were along the Mississippi River (33: 58% of total) while most Mallards were along the Missouri River (6,033: 32% of total) and in the Middle Third (6,871: 37% of total). New 10-year lows also were set for many diving ducks including Redhead (1), Ring-necked Duck (11), Lesser Scaup (8), Long-tailed Duck (1), Bufflehead (4), Common Goldeneye (1,508), Common Merganser (1,293), and Red-breasted Merganser (1). The remaining diving ducks (Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck), with the exception of Greater Scaup, were well below their 10-year averages. Most Common Goldeneyes (1,158: 77% of total) were found along the Mississippi River, probably because of more abundant open water at the locks. For all diving ducks combined, the majority (2,362: 81% of total) was found along the Mississippi River this year, most at Princeton and Keokuk.

It was a record year for Bald Eagles with a total of 2,695 counted statewide, well above the 10-year average of 1,472. As expected, most were found along the Mississippi River (1,932: 72% of total) with smaller numbers in the Middle Third (356: 13% of total) and Southern Third (248: 9% of total). Only two counts (Iowa County and Jefferson County) did not report Bald Eagles this year. Northern Harriers (43) reached their second lowest total in the last 10 years and were well below the 10-year average of 78. Most of these were found on counts in the southern half of the state. An above-average number of accipiters were found this year, including 52 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 50 Cooper's Hawks, and 6 Northern Goshawks. All of these were at or above the 10-year average. The statewide total of five Red-shouldered Hawks was average. Red-tailed Hawks (1,602)

were found in above-average numbers for the third consecutive year. Most were found in the Middle Third (626: 39% of total) and along the Mississippi River (533: 33% of total). Rough-legged Hawks (221) made a strong showing, reaching their second highest total in the last 10 years, topped only by the strong migratory flight in 1994–1995. The best numbers (119: 54% of total) were found on counts in northeastern Iowa. American Kestrels (341) reached their lowest total since 1985, a distant second to the 467 in 1998–1999 and far below the 10-year average of 606. As expected, the bulk of these were found on counts in the southern half of the state. Totals of two Golden Eagles, six Merlins, and two Peregrine Falcons were about average.

Gallinaceous birds made a strong showing on the counts this year, aided by abundant snow cover on almost every count. Unfortunately, I suspect many did not survive the harsh winter. Gray Partridge (178) reached their highest total since the population crashed after the winter of 1990–1991. Small numbers were found on 14 counts, although they were most abundant on counts in the Northern Third (86: 48% of total). Ring-necked Pheasants (3,475) were found in record numbers, well above the 10-year average of 1,591, and were missed only at Dubuque and Andalusia. Most were in the Middle (1,718: 49% of total) and Northern (994: 29% of total) thirds while they were scarce along the Mississippi River (113: 3% of total) and in the Southern Third (36: 1% of total). A lone Ruffed Grouse was found at Yellow River Forest; at least one is found somewhere in northeastern Iowa every year. Wild Turkeys were found in above-average numbers (1,808), although they dropped slightly from last year's record total. Most were found along the Mississippi (579: 32% of total) and Missouri (423: 23% of total) Rivers. Northern Bobwhite (133) had their best showing since 1996–1997 but still well below the 10-year average of 216. Almost all of these were in the southern half of the state.

Only six American Coots were found on two counts after last year's record total. Shorebird totals were mixed this year. Only 13 Killdeer were found on six counts, well below the 10-year average of 33. Singles at Decorah and Cedar Rapids were the only individuals found away from the Mississippi River. Common Snipe (53), however, were found in good numbers, well above the 10-year average of 32. Gulls, which are very sensitive to cold weather, had their poorest showing since 1989–1990. Statewide totals of 110 Ring-billed Gulls and 219 Herring Gulls were far below the 10-year

averages. The only gulls away from the Mississippi River were two Ring-billed Gulls at Cedar Rapids. The only unusual gulls this year were a Thayer's Gull at Davenport and a Glaucous Gull at Keokuk.

Rock Doves went from a record high count last year to a record low count (6,728) this year; I can offer no explanation for this trend. A total of seven Eurasian Collared-Doves was found on two counts. As this species continues to solidify its range in Iowa, an increase in numbers can be expected on CBCs statewide. Mourning Dove numbers (3,061) were above average for the seventh straight year; the 10-year average is 2,474. As in prior years, most (1,560: 51% of total) were found along the Mississippi River. The numbers of Eastern Screech-Owls (88), Great Horned Owls (174), and Barred Owls (90) were all slightly below average. Numbers of each of these species are dependent on the number of hours spent owling, and owling hours were down this year. A single Snowy Owl was found at Spirit Lake, the first CBC occurrence of this species since 1995–1996. Numbers of Long-eared (11) and Short-eared (9) owls were both well below average, the former reaching a record low total. A good total of five Northern Saw-whet Owls was found on four counts, the best total since 1997–1998. With bitter cold weather and lack of open water, it was not surprising that Belted Kingfishers (54) reached their lowest total in the last 10 years, well below the average of 106. Most were in the Middle Third (22: 41% of total) and along the Mississippi River (15: 28% of total).

Red-headed Woodpeckers (218) remained scarce for the third straight year, but did rebound from last year's low count of 69. Numbers of the other four common woodpecker species (Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Northern Flicker) were slightly below their 10-year averages. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (6) were scarce, well below the 10-year average of 15, but Pileated Woodpeckers (48) were found in average numbers. Extralimital Pileated Woodpeckers were at Boone County, Saylorville Reservoir, and Des Moines. This was a poor year for shrikes. The totals of four Loggerhead Shrikes and 16 Northern Shrikes were well below the 10-year averages. All of the Loggerhead Shrikes were in the southern half of the state. Single Northern Shrikes at Muscatine and Red Rock Reservoir were notable for those counts.

It was a great year for Blue Jays (5,047), which reached their highest total since 1994–1995 and were well above the 10-year average of 4,142. This is indicative of a good acorn crop but is inconsistent with the low numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers,

another acorn-dependent species. A lone Black-billed Magpie was at Westfield; perhaps the presence of multiple birds at the Broken Kettle Preserve indicates they are becoming established in this area. American Crows (62,939) were present in below average numbers for the second straight year. The heavy snow cover helped Horned Larks (13,455) reach record numbers, well above the 10-year average of 2,936. This species was found on every count this year; the highest numbers were found in the Middle Third (6,370: 47% of total) and along the Mississippi River (4,591: 34% of total). Black-capped Chickadees (6,413), Tufted Titmice (837), and White-breasted Nuthatches (2,044) were found in below average numbers this year. After a major eruption last year, Red-breasted Nuthatches plummeted to a total of just 21 birds this year, a new record low total. Small numbers were scattered statewide with no clear pattern of occurrence. Brown Creepers (145) also were unusually scarce this year, well below the 10-year average of 277. As expected, wrens were found in very low numbers, probably due to the unusually cold fall weather. Carolina Wrens (27) reached their lowest total since 1987–1988 and were well below the 10-year average of 54. Totals of six each at Keokuk and Iowa City were notable. A record low total of four Winter Wrens was detected; this was well below the 10-year average of 18.

Golden-crowned Kinglets (34) set a new record low total, well below the 10-year average of 144; 21 (62% of total) were found along the Mississippi River. This was generally a good year for frugivorous species, with the exception of American Robin. Eastern Bluebirds (180) were found in surprisingly good numbers and exceeded the 10-year average of 125. Small numbers were scattered statewide, but most (109: 61% of total) were found along the Mississippi River. One of the real surprises this year was the record total of 15 Hermit Thrushes, well above the 10-year average of about three birds per year. An impressive three individuals were tallied at Ames while two other counts recorded two individuals each. American Robins (555) were found in below-average numbers for the second straight year. Most of these (332: 60% of total) were found at Rathbun Reservoir with smaller numbers scattered across the state. There were two Varied Thrushes this year, well-documented singles at Mason City and Sac County. Totals of two Northern Mockingbirds and three Brown Thrashers were about average. I am at a loss to explain the record low total of European Starlings (29,718), although I must admit this was a pleasant surprise. Cedar Waxwing (1,721), another frugivorous

species, also was scarce this year with the total well below the 10-year average of 2,390. Warblers were highlighted by the first CBC record of a Cape May Warbler, a lone individual at Cedar Rapids. The total of 23 Yellow-rumped Warblers was about average; 13 of these were at De Soto NWR.

In general, it was a great year for sparrows. The total of 13 towhees was the best since 1994–1995. This total included three Spotted (all in the western half of the state), nine Eastern (statewide, including two as far west as De Soto NWR), and one unidentified to species. American Tree Sparrows (12,922) were found in average numbers. Surprisingly, most (5,602: 43% of total) were found along the Mississippi River. Reports of semi-hardy species included single Chipping Sparrows at Mason City and Saylorville Reservoir, a lone Field Sparrow at Princeton, Savannah Sparrows at Clinton and Saylorville Reservoir, and a single Lincoln's Sparrow at Clinton. Much like last year, totals for the large sparrows were all above average, with the exception of Swamp Sparrow (59), which was about half its 10-year average. The biggest surprise was the new record count of 513 Harris's Sparrows, nearly triple the 10-year average of 184. They were found statewide with the greatest numbers in the Middle Third (297: 58% of total) and along the Missouri River (159: 31% of total). Numbers of Lapland Longspurs (1,226) were slightly above average while numbers of Snow Buntings (1,466) were the best since 1996–1997 and well above the 10-year average of 593. Snow Buntings were most numerous in the Northern Third (680: 46% of total), but good numbers also were found in the Middle Third (543: 37% of total). Mysteriously, only six were found on the Missouri River counts. For some reason, Northern Cardinals (7,072) were found in record numbers this year. Most (5,866: 83% of total) were found along the Mississippi River and in the Middle Third.

In general, this was a poor year for icterids. Red-winged Blackbirds (1,171) were unusually scarce with most occurring along the Mississippi (584: 50% of total) and Missouri (442: 38% of total) rivers. The number of meadowlarks (499) was above average for the second consecutive year, well above the 10-year average of 288. As is usually the case, more than half (304: 61% of total) were found along the Missouri River. A lone male Yellow-headed Blackbird was a surprise feeder bird at Jamaica. Rusty Blackbirds (84) were found in average numbers, along with single Brewer's Blackbirds on two counts. Omaha tallied a record count of 121 Great-tailed Grackles. Both Common Grackle (147) and Brown-headed Cowbird (135) were



at or near 10-year lows.

Winter finches had another poor year, or maybe that's just normal. Whatever happened to the Evening Grosbeak invasions of the 1970s and 1980s? Purple Finches (499) were found in average numbers this year, but House Finches (3,070) continue to increase. Statewide totals of nine Red Crossbills, one Common Redpoll, and 120 Pine Siskins indicate an off year for those species. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (723) set a new record high count, well above the 10-year average of 190. As in past years, they were restricted to counts along the Mississippi River, as far north as Andalusia.

#### NOTABLE MISSES

There were several notable misses this year, including Ross's Goose (9 of last 10 years), Tundra Swan (6 of last 10 years), Prairie Falcon (5 of last 10 years), Bonaparte's Gull (6 of last 10 years), Black-legged Kittiwake (5 of last 10 years), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (9 of last 10 years), Gray Catbird (5 of last 10 years), and Vesper Sparrow (5 of last 10 years).

#### UNCOMMON SPECIES

This year, there were a number of unusual species reported. Many were waterbirds that lingered due to the unseasonably mild fall period. One new species was added to the Iowa all-time CBC list — a Cape May Warbler at Cedar Rapids. Other good finds included a Virginia Rail at Princeton (in Illinois; 3rd CBC record), Eurasian Collared-Doves at Spirit Lake and Boone County (3rd and 4th CBC records), a Black-billed Magpie at Westfield (about the 11th CBC report and the first since 1990–1991), single Chipping Sparrows at Mason City and Saylorville Reservoir (6th and 7th modern reports), and Savannah Sparrows at Clinton (in Illinois) and Saylorville Reservoir (4th and 5th reports in the last 10 years). The all-time Iowa CBC list now stands at 205 species.

As is the case every year, there were a few reports that were not accompanied by adequate details to support the identification. In some cases, no details were provided. This year, such reports included an Eastern Meadowlark at Muscatine, an Eastern Phoebe and a Chipping Sparrow at De Soto NWR, an Osprey at Shenandoah, and a Mute Swan and a Peregrine Falcon at Cedar Rapids. While some of these reports may indeed be correct, they are not included in my totals.

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Table 1. Site Data for 2000–2001 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total		Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind	
		Species	Birds	Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Pt	Hr	L	H			
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River For	20 Dec	55	4629	6	4	29	212	9	3	32	0	0	-2	10	15	ESE 0-5
2. Dubuque	30 Dec	48	5137	15	7	35	291	5	1	21	3	6	18	28	19	NE 7-15
3. Springbrook	28 Dec	48	3983	10	4	29	350	7	2	12	0	0	5	15	30	NW 0-15
4. Clinton	14 Dec	66	8565	10	5	38	302	3	4	29	0	0	11	25	9	NW 3-6
5. Princeton	19 Dec	55	4977	5	4	29	291	4	3	29	0	0	5	18	14	NW 10-20
6. Davenport	17 Dec	62	11381	11	6	48	420	7	3	49	12	12	0	6	11	WNW 20-30
7. Andalusia	26 Dec	54	4492	6	3	26	295	1	3	22	0	0	10	29	16	SW 0-10
8. Muscatine	23 Dec	64	11206	10	4	34	430	5	3	30	4	4	4	18	17	SW 5-20
9. Oakville	20 Dec	56	6890	5	4	29	273	2	4	19	0	0	-5	10	16	SE 10-20
10. Burlington	23 Dec	70	5959	7	3	30	191	24	2	15	5	18	16	23	12	SW 10-15
11. Keokuk	18 Dec	76	32726	12	6	64	323	15	0	0	2	6	8	17	4	NE 0-5
MISSOURI RIVER																
12. Sioux City	23 Dec	55	9364	19	7	54	41	13	0	0	5	15	-4	10	15	N 10-24
13. De Soto NW	17 Dec	60	7174	18	7	84	431	28	2	5	0	0	7	15	5	N 0-9
14. Omaha, NE	23 Dec	59	6561	22	8	57	295	21	1	1	3	9	17	20	8	N 10-20
15. Shenandoah	30 Dec	52	6382	22	5	36	325	8	0	0	10	45	6	18	9	NNE 5-17
NORTHERN THIRD																
16. Decorah	22 Dec	50	5119	11	5	29	305	4	1	5	3	3	-13	-3	15	NW 0-5
17. Bremer County	16 Dec	41	1890	4	2	15	219	4	0	0	0	0	0	24	14	N 10-30
18. Mason City	16 Dec	45	8076	12	6	32	256	9	3	1	1	8	2	19	7	NW 15-38
19. Spirit Lake	30 Dec	42	4185	7	4	27	389	6	0	0	28	33	-3	5	20	NW 1
20. Cherokee	30 Dec	36	2066	2	2	15	223	1	2	10	2	5	-7	8	10	NNW 5-10
21. Westfield	5 Jan	37	1794	7	4	30	322	13	2	3	2	4	32	39	7	NW 0-20

MIDDLE THIRD																
22. Lost Nation	18 Dec	51	3795	13	5	39	363	6	2	25	0	0	5	20	15	NNW 0-15
23. North Linn	27 Dec	57	4784	6	4	36	319	10	4	23	2	7	0	15	15	NW 0-10
24. Cedar Rapids	16 Dec	65	14219	15	6	47	330	19	4	45	5	8	7	30	12	NW 0-35
25. Iowa City	30 Dec	59	8860	24	10	68	673	13	2	4	17	61	13	18	14	NW 5-20
26. Amara	26 Dec	37	1335	10	3	16	65	7	2	6	0	0	10	18	12	SW 0-5
27. Ced Falls-Water.	17 Dec	52	7617	6	3	19	251	5	0	0	1	4	5	10	14	N 5-10
28. Grinnell	30 Dec	27	428	4	1	8	45	6	0	0	1	8	4	9	18	NW 5-18
29. Marshalltown	2 Jan	42	2653	13	5	34	338	0	0	0	5	30	4	26	20	SW 0-3
30. Eldora-Union	27 Dec	37	1705	5	3	20	213	1	1	2	2	4	18	-5	13	N 0-5
31. Ames	16 Dec	57	12014	28	16	54	247	31	3	46	10	20	9	0	15	NW 20-35
32. Boone County	30 Dec	63	8294	38	18	103	626	40	5	36	15	72	0	10	12	NW 10-15
33. Saylorville	17 Dec	80	12835	25	13	90	704	46	1	6	0	0	-4	17	14	NW 5-20
34. Des Moines	23 Dec	59	20389	14	5	42	382	13	1	1	6	24	0	13	20	NW 5-15
35. Jamaica	19 Dec	49	4442	4	3	25	291	7	1	10	0	0	-6	10	20	NW 5-20
36. Carroll	31 Dec	39	7038	2	1	8	127	1	2	5	2	4	-5	6	24	W 10-25
37. Sac County	30 Dec	28	1271	10	3	12	128	2	0	0	5	7	-5	0	20	NW 0-10
38. Ida County	30 Dec	46	4802	18	6	48	316	6	0	0	6	17	0	8	8	NW 0-12
SOUTHERN THIRD																
39. Jefferson County	30 Dec	35	1108	7	3	11	97	1	1	5	5	4	9	13	16	N 5-15
40. Rathbun	16 Dec	56	3754	12	4	30	279	9	2	35	9	30	8	31	1	NW 5-35
41. Red Rock Res.	19 Dec	49	6891	2	2	18	200	4	0	0	0	0	-5	8	21	NW 10-20
TOTAL													280,790			

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2000–2001

Location	Gr Bl He	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Le Sc	Co Go
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	1		4				9	301		1		
2. Dubuque		6	174	2				130				
3. Springbrook								10				
4. Clinton	1		501			2	10	605			1	2
4. Princeton			59					55				335
6. Davenport	10	50	772		1	1	5	775	5		3	3
7. Andalusia		7	89	1			1	61				2
8. Muscatine	5		1,002			17	1	248		2		2
9. Oakville	1		15					2				5
10. Burlington	13		205			2	2	110				5
11. Keokuk	3		3,577			2	5	403			7	803
Subtotal	34	63	6,398	3	1	24	33	2,700	5	3	11	1,158
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City	1		50			46	1	4,775		8		87
13. De Soto NWR			193					1,213				16
14. Omaha, NE			341					40		22	2	48
15. Shenandoah	1				2			8				
Subtotal	2	0	584	0	2	46	1	6,033	0	30	2	151
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah			263					109				
17. Bremer County			31			3		17				
18. Mason City			621	4			1	1,382				
19. Spirit Lake			255			1		74				
20. Cherokee			3					121				
21. Westfield												35
Subtotal	0	0	1,173	4	0	4	1	1,703	0	0	0	35
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation		4	1	3				17				
23. North Linn			19				2	77				
24. Cedar Rapids	1		4,517			3	14	2,851				89
25. Iowa City			569				2	1,052	1			2
26. Amana												
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			425					246				
28. Grinnell			77					21				
29. Marshalltown			52					8				
30. Eldora-Union												
31. Ames	1		423			1		70			1	
32. Boone County								3				
33. Saylorville Reservoir	2		261		1	5	2	1,293	1	4		
34. Des Moines	8	1	1,508	4	1	1	1	425	1		1	34
35. Jamaica			2,300		1	8		218				1
36. Carroll		1	3,000			2		500				1
37. Sac County			150					30				
38. Ida County		1	1,001					60				
Subtotal	12	7	14,303	7	3	20	21	6,871	3	4	2	127
SOUTHERN THIRD												
40. Jefferson County								8				
41. Rathbun Reservoir	4		144			4		2				
42. Red Rock Reservoir			3,200	3			1	1,260			3	37
Subtotal	4	0	3,344	3	0	4	1	1,270	0	0	3	37
TOTAL	52	70	25,802	17	6	98	57	18,577	8	37	18	1,508

Co Me	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	No Go	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Me	Gr Pa
	26		1	1			25	7	2		
	196	2	3	2			56	5	7		
	91						58	14	12		10
25	73						113	9	15	1	
876	218	1		2			25		8		
12	357	1		3			47	3	11		11
10	64						50	3	6		
38	338	4	1	1			56	11	33		
32	202	1	1	1		1	28	5	3		
4	130	2	4				40	9	19		
131	237	3		2		1	35	3	13		
1,128	1,932	14	10	12	0	2	533	69	129	1	21
54	20		2	1			28	5	2		
3	43	10	3	1			77	14	12	1	
52	30	2	2	1			78	2	14		
	10	1	2	1			51	1	13		
109	103	13	9	4	0	0	234	22	41	1	0
	27	1	2				73	9	2		5
	19		1	2			5	1	2		20
	1		3	1	1		11	2			16
	1				1		15	1	1		38
	1		2				24	2	2		7
1	7		2	3	1		26	7	11	1	
1	56	1	10	6	3	0	154	22	18	1	86
	31		1	2	1	1	54	15	19	1	
	27			2			53	22	13		17
106	1	1	1	7			78	7	13		
34			1				70	13	11		5
14	1	1	1	1			17	14	9		
6			1	1		1	16	3	3		6
1							2		4		
41			1				41	1	1		
4							29	2	2		
1	3		1	2			25	2	6		15
1	18		8	5	1	1	65	3	8		6
5	33		3	4			81	7	19	1	14
46	30			1			44	2	9		
	6	1	1	1	1		19	2	3		
	1	1					12	1	2		8
	1						4		1		
			1	1			16		6	1	
53	356	4	20	27	3	3	626	94	129	3	71
			1				16	8	13		
	10	11	1	1			22	6	9		
2	238		1				17		2		
2	248	11	3	1	0	0	55	14	24	0	0
1,293	2,695	43	52	50	6	5	1,602	221	341	6	178

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2000–2001

Location	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Ki	Co Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	16	45			2			66	74	7	9
2. Dubuque		54		5				141	103	1	1
3. Springbrook	22	120		2				313	85	6	11
4. Clinton	17	142	4	1	7			326	155	11	14
4. Princeton	2	28				15	12	88	125	2	3
6. Davenport	9				3	61	200	536	265	1	4
7. Andalusia		3	11		1			277	144	3	4
8. Muscatine	14	69	3				1	227	304	5	7
9. Oakville	28	15			2			48	93	4	3
10. Burlington	5	40	1		6	26		243	156	2	3
11. Keokuk		63	4	3	3	6	6	577	56	1	
Subtotal	113	579	23	11	24	108	219	2,842	1,560	43	59
MISSOURI RIVER											
12. Sioux City	34	44						244	1	2	2
13. De Soto NWR	340	205	7					118	27	4	9
14. Omaha, NE	40	144	32		1			271	62	6	3
15. Shenandoah	200	30	17		1			89	113		2
Subtotal	614	423	56	0	2	0	0	722	203	12	16
NORTHERN THIRD											
16. Decorah	74	105		1	7			118	35	2	1
17. Bremer County	24	18						74	12		1
18. Mason City	16	15						197	74	1	1
19. Spirit Lake	760	32						66	7		3
20. Cherokee	72	27						106	2	2	1
21. Westfield	48	118						112			2
Subtotal	994	315	0	1	7	0	0	673	130	5	9
MIDDLE THIRD											
22. Lost Nation	113	26	5		1			87	74	4	4
23. North Linn	264	105	6		1			103	64	2	12
24. Cedar Rapids	115	11		1	1	2		150	136	2	23
25. Iowa City	113	101			1			353	166	1	
26. Amana	52	27						25	120	2	9
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	91	1						92	36	2	1
28. Grinnell	28							4	20		
29. Marshalltown	124	29						56	58		
30. Eldora-Union	93	23						5	12		2
31. Ames	121							117	75	1	5
32. Boone County	120	27						179	80	7	18
33. Saylorville Reservoir	177		15		9			455	88	1	5
34. Des Moines	43	5						205	134	1	2
35. Jamaica	23	7			2			33	23		2
36. Carroll	89	36						369		2	3
37. Sac County	14	12						38			
38. Ida County	118	2						116	17	1	1
Subtotal	1,718	412	26	1	15	2	0	2,387	1,103	26	87
SOUTHERN THIRD											
40. Jefferson County	14	19	5					22	40		
41. Rathbun Reservoir	7	51	23		5			33	10	2	1
42. Red Rock Reservoir	15	9						49	15		2
Subtotal	36	79	28	0	5	0	0	104	65	2	3
TOTAL	3,475	1,808	133	13	53	110	219	6,728	3,061	88	174

Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No Sw Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	He Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Lo Sh
			1		44	1	56	14	4	6	
			2	1	53		124	26	2	3	
			1	9	44		37	12	2	5	
	1	1			43		46	7	5	2	
			1	6	23		27	10	3		
			1	7	54	1	126	17	9	3	
	1			12	47		65	8	6	5	
			1	3	64		96	22	8	1	
			2	16	42		37	10	8	2	
1			3	11	25		25	6	6	3	
			3	5	56		84	6	19	6	
1	2	1	15	70	495	2	723	138	72	36	0
			1		14		47	9	22		
	3		1	6	62	1	101	14	127		
			3	33	93		107	16	44		
			1	2	31		40	1	11		
0	3	0	6	41	200	1	295	40	204	0	0
			7	2	38		35	7	6	2	
				2	2		7	2	1		
2					12		25	11	1		
			1		17		63	22	1		
					8		10	3	2		
					13		21	7	4		
2	0	0	8	4	90	0	161	52	15	2	0
	1			12	39		49	8	2	1	
1				4	38		55	17	5	3	
			5	4	44		102	10	4	1	
1		1	1	19	81		127	25	31	1	1
				3	9		18	1	4		
			1	1	8		22	7	1	1	
					4		7	2	1		1
				2	19	1	54	13	1		
			1	1	14		12	4	1		
			4		70		134	25	3		
1		1	3	37	136		181	59	9	1	
3	2	2	4	5	92		114	28	35	1	1
			3		48	1	107	15	19	1	
1	1			8	21		20	1			
				1	17		26	9			
					12		23	7	2		
					5		38	6	3		
7	4	4	22	97	657	2	1,089	237	121	10	3
				1	10		7	2	3		
			2	5	23	1	24	13	11		1
1			1		10		19	4	12		
1	0	0	3	6	43	1	50	19	26	0	1
11	9	5	54	218	1,485	6	2,318	486	438	48	4

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2000–2001

Location	No Sh	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bi Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	1		160	234	25	128	13	2	33	3		1
2. Dubuque			164	351	640	163	44	3	61	3		
3. Springbrook			168	243	435	150	33		64	9		
4. Clinton			218	418	591	263	28		81	2		
4. Princeton			89	150	274	99	17		28	4	1	1
6. Davenport			152	1,292	55	251	43		75	6	4	
7. Andalusia	1		122	248	352	196	22		72	1		
8. Muscatine	1		267	440	478	176	60		106	4	1	
9. Oakville			147	161	909	107	31		56	1	1	
10. Burlington			111	301	622	110	28	1	40	3	1	1
11. Keokuk			213	20,000	210	161	89		39	20	6	
Subtotal	3	0	1,811	23,838	4,591	1,804	408	6	655	56	14	3
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City	1		40	534	298	146		2	33	2	1	
13. De Soto NWR			146	261	191	376	19		79	6	1	
14. Omaha, NE	1		86	616	227	297	55		85	14	1	
15. Shenandoah		3	221	123	393	60	10	1	26	3		
Subtotal	2	3	493	1,534	1,109	879	84	3	223	25	3	0
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah	2		134	381	200	116	17		34	1		
17. Bremer County			41	164	36	16			2	3		
18. Mason City			87	4,128	19	80			14			
19. Spirit Lake			96	106	102	206		3	81	3		
20. Cherokee			38	252	446	53			21	1		
21. Westfield	2		28	93	26	96			43	1		
Subtotal	4	0	424	5,124	829	567	17	3	195	9	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation			169	411	187	151	17		48	3		
23. North Linn		1	120	176	375	220	23		49	9		
24. Cedar Rapids			130	1,686	281	235	29		71	6	1	
25. Iowa City		1	223	875	470	310	102	1	126	2	6	
26. Amana			30	35	140	38	4		12	1		
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1		41	4,265	48	51			9	3		
28. Grinnell			13	43	41	11			6			
29. Marshalltown			112	215	64	182	4	3	55	1		
30. Eldora-Union			38	93	277	54	3		16			
31. Ames	1		104	7,100	364	325	5	1	112	12	1	
32. Boone County	2		364	797	332	697	64	1	199	5		
33. Saylorville Reservoir	2		287	741	1,472	386	17		67	1	1	1
34. Des Moines			106	14,000	53	178	26		74	6	1	
35. Jamaica			69	58	255	42	3		28			
36. Carroll			29	675	1,362	37			17			
37. Sac County			34	61	186	47			27	1		
38. Ida County			95	280	463	51	1	1	21	2		
Subtotal	6	2	1,964	31,511	6,370	3,015	298	7	937	52	10	1
SOUTHERN THIRD												
40. Jefferson County			75	49	161	15	8		8			
41. Rathbun Reservoir			200	82	101	77	20	2	14			
42. Red Rock Reservoir	1		80	801	284	56	2		12	3		
Subtotal	1	0	355	932	546	148	30	2	34	3	0	0
TOTAL	16	5	5,047	62,939	13,445	6,413	837	21	2,044	145	27	4



Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Ea To	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp
10	3			498	86			435		8	2
	15			360	69			331		4	
1	26		2	186	11	1		459		12	
1	9	2	31	1,495	8	2	1	561	1	28	
2				461				228		29	27
			5	2,382			1	499		119	3
	4	1	2	410	80			95		21	
	2	1	2	1,640	20	1		1,457		80	9
	7		25	351	70			501		97	1
3	20	1	10	366	20	1		388		12	2
4	23	1	2	2,393	162			648		50	3
21	109	6	79	10,542	526	5	2	5,602	1	460	47
			1	1,336	18			114		10	
	26		16	616	3	13	2	737	1	34	
2	9		3	1,413	40			169		11	
	8		1	1,734				550		18	
2	43	0	21	5,099	61	13	2	1,570	1	73	0
	4			313	46	2		713	2	9	
				371				206			
1				248	4		1	78		5	
1				597				90		5	
	7			174				89			
			16	575	115			66			
2	11	0	16	2,278	165	2	1	1,242	2	19	0
			1	207				141		8	
2		1	3	388	25		1	362		2	
		1	28	705	71			357		18	1
			13	683	258			263	2	34	
				65				200		7	
		1	2	455	1			208		3	
				2				12		1	
			5	262	23			44		1	
			1	352	7			90		3	
1		3	13	632	10	1		291	1	24	
	2	1	3	1,142	21		2	348	3	76	
6	4	2	9	3,140	63	1	1	613	2	87	8
			16	1,781				269		26	
			2	179				135		2	
				468				174		5	
				127				35			
			10	639	4			364		1	
9	6	9	106	11,227	483	2	4	3,906	8	298	9
			1	208				21		1	
	11		332	185	460	1		547		26	3
				179	26			34		4	
0	11	0	333	572	486	1	0	602	0	31	3
34	180	15	555	29,718	1,721	23	9	12,922	12	881	59

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2000-2001

Location	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	10		5	765	2	3	256	58				
2. Dubuque	5		5	615			218	35				
3. Springbrook	2			553	8	1	179		3			
4. Clinton	15		3	896	308	111	225	2	1		33	9
4. Princeton	5		1	757	10	2	115	30				3
6. Davenport	34		1	804			328	337			43	25
7. Andalusia	32		1	391	38	52	226				4	13
8. Muscatine	8			1,599	40	22	362	9	2		1	34
9. Oakville	3		8	1,529	260	23	208	46	27			
10. Burlington	15	8	7	656	25	20	317	3	1	3	1	2
11. Keokuk	19	3	10	616		1	277	64	4	1	2	7
Subtotal	148	11	41	9,181	691	235	2,711	584	38	4	84	93
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Sioux City		8		157	3	1	39	298	1	13	2	
13. De Soto NWR	23	65	4	859	2	2	202	19	66	2		
14. Omaha, NE	5	23		639	2		132		105		1	
15. Shenandoah	6	63	9	565		3	215	125	132	2	1	
Subtotal	34	159	13	2,220	7	6	588	442	304	17	4	0
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah	6			1,113	26	50	208				1	
17. Bremer County		1		220	4	52	48		1			
18. Mason City	8	6		297	21	58	60					
19. Spirit Lake		1		163	10	444	28		1			
20. Cherokee		12		130	13	76	29		4			
21. Westfield				95			9	2	5			
Subtotal	14	20	0	2,018	74	680	382	2	11	0	1	0
MIDDLE THIRD												
22. Lost Nation	3			624	11	2	252				25	
23. North Linn	10	2	2	589	7	27	390		1	10		
24. Cedar Rapids	15			637	65	105	274		7	1	7	
25. Iowa City	25	12	3	848	12	26	460	2	6		1	2
26. Aman	10		3	150			42					2
27. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1	3	2	337	15	147	72	12	1		1	4
28. Grinnell		1		60			15					
29. Marshalltown	1	2	2	418			87				1	
30. Eldora-Union		7		236	6	4	81		5		9	
31. Ames	10	33		567		25	205		3	8		1
32. Boone County	4	89	5	856	41	14	390	2	8		10	
33. Saylorville Reservoir	6	57	4	854	158	71	485	39	68	38		31
34. Des Moines	5	9	5	370			186	1	4	6	1	2
35. Jamaica		32		219	16	30	68	83	12		1	
36. Carroll		11		116	14	58	31					
37. Sac County		22		73			55					
38. Ida County	1	17		224	63	34	62	1	9		1	
Subtotal	91	297	26	7,178	408	543	3,155	140	124	63	57	42
SOUTHERN THIRD												
40. Jefferson County		3		131	2	1	71	2				
41. Rathbun Reservoir		4	3	315	19	1	76	1	21			
42. Red Rock Reservoir	1	19		175	25	6	89		1		1	
Subtotal	1	26	3	621	46	2	236	3	22	0	1	0
TOTAL	288	513	83	21,218	1,226	1,466	7,072	1,171	499	84	147	135

Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
28	128	6	237	765	
13	52		102	769	
29	20		106	410	
	54	2	114	903	
8	57		92	555	
	206	12	169	1,611	
19	28		47	1,118	8
33	44		134	1,499	86
40	101		153	1,090	324
11	36	17	117	405	164
53	71	4	399	841	141
234	797	41	1,670	9,996	723
	296	17	60	215	
2	30		118	627	
7	15	3	225	758	
	100	8	315	1,054	
9	441	28	718	2,654	0
23	56	7	158	566	
	9		16	451	
4	188		40	329	
2	55		87	740	
	46		30	250	
	11		46	145	
29	365	7	377	2,481	0
4	173		38	717	
51	55	2	92	873	
2	147	14	73	912	
5	160		254	886	
	26		65	180	
1	95		24	840	
	3		11	37	
83	163	9	145	256	
1	29		23	165	
12	85		147	821	
24	46	5	323	1,431	
14	58	3	174	1,079	
	37		120	387	
2	51		54	395	
8	29		55	155	
	16	3	27	259	
10	85	8	203	756	
217	1,258	44	1,828	10,149	0
5	5		6	166	
4	191		194	428	
1	13		3	174	
10	209	0	203	768	0
499	3,070	120	4,796	26,018	723

**Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts — 2000–2001**

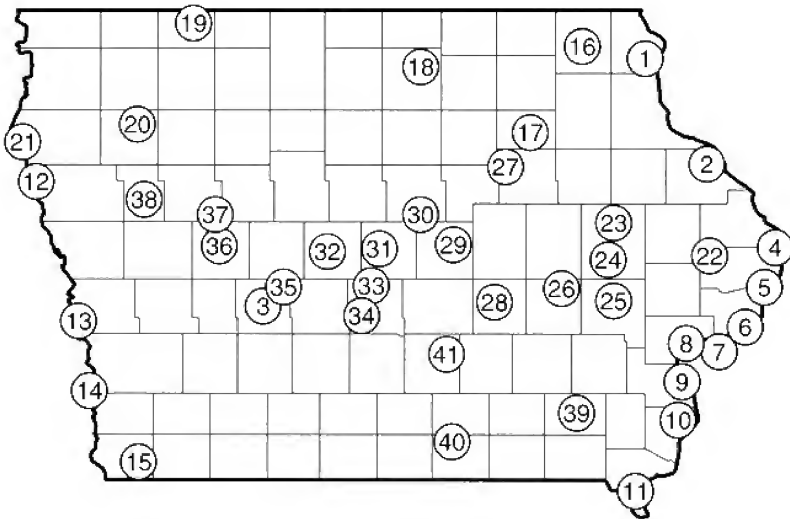
Species	Counts
Pied-billed Grebe	Keokuk (1), Cedar Rapids (1)
American White Pelican	Keokuk (1), Des Moines (4), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Double-crested Cormorant	Davenport (2), Keokuk (1), Red Rock Reservoir (2)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Bremer County (1), Boone County (1), Des Moines (6)
Swan sp.	Saylorville Reservoir (2), Ida County (2)
American Wigeon	Sioux City (1), Cedar Rapids (1), Saylorville Reservoir (2)
Northern Shoveler	Muscatine (1)
Canvasback	Keokuk (41)
Redhead	Ames (1)
Ring-necked Duck	Keokuk (2), Des Moines (8), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Greater Scaup	Keokuk (14)
Long-tailed Duck	Keokuk (1)
Bufflehead	Princeton (1), Keokuk (3)
Hooded Merganser	Sioux City (1), Cedar Rapids (21), Jamaica (2)
Red-breasted Merganser	Princeton (1)
Ruddy Duck	Clinton (2)
accipiter sp.	Omaha (1), Carroll (1), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Golden Eagle	Clinton (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Spirit Lake (1), North Linn (1)
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow River Forest (1)
Virginia Rail	Princeton (1, in IL)
American Coot	Keokuk (3), Cedar Rapids (3)
Thayer's Gull	Davenport (1)
Glaucous Gull	Keokuk (1)
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Spirit Lake (4), Boone County (3)
Snowy Owl	Spirit Lake (1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield (1)
Varied Thrush	Mason City (1), Sac County (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Princeton (1), Des Moines (1)
Brown Thrasher	Burlington (1), Iowa City (1), Ames (1)
Cape May Warbler	Cedar Rapids (1)
Spotted Towhee	Sioux City (1), De Soto NWR (1), Boone County (1)
Towhee sp.	Omaha (1)
Chipping Sparrow	Mason City (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Field Sparrow	Princeton (1, in IL)

**Table 3. Continued**

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Savannah Sparrow	Clinton (1, in IL), Saylorville Reservoir (2)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Clinton (1, in IL)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Jamaica (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Shenandoah (1), Decorah (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (121)
Red Crossbill	North Linn (1), Sac County (4), Rathbun Reservoir (4)
Common Redpoll	Saylorville Reservoir (1)

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**Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 2000–2001.**

# Field Reports — Winter 2000–2001

*Robert I. Cecil*

## WEATHER

After three consecutive mild winters, the law of averages reared its ugly head. Returning to the lexicon were almost forgotten terms like “ground blizzard,” “deadly wind chill,” and “two feet of snow.” December was particularly nasty. Temperatures averaged 12.6 degrees below normal, the second coldest among 128 years of reporting, and, overall, the coldest month since December 1983. The month also featured the season’s lowest wind chills, with !59 degrees on 21 December at Storm Lake and Sheldon. Snowfall for December averaged 25 inches, the highest in 114 years of snowfall reporting. The snowfall started much of the state on its way to another record — the longest continuous period with at least one inch of snow on the ground. January was somewhat more moderate, with temperatures averaging 3.2 degrees above normal, the 47th warmest in 129 years of records. Temperatures tended to remain fairly constant — the 71 degree range in statewide temperature extremes was the smallest temperature spread since 1983. In terms of precipitation, it was the 25th wettest January among 129 years of reporting, much of it in the form of rain and freezing rain. February was more like December. At 5.1 degrees below normal, it was the 29th coldest on record. Precipitation from the month’s two major winter storms began as rain or freezing rain and ended up as snow, resulting in the 7th wettest February in 129 years of reporting. Overall for the season, snowfall, at 41.6 inches, is the third highest total on record. Unfortunately for agricultural producers, the precipitation did little to help low subsoil moisture levels since, with an average frost penetration of 12 inches — eight inches more than last year — melt water simply ran off.



*R. I. Cecil*

## GENERAL TRENDS

As to be expected, the harsh winter played a major role in the season's birding. Some of the state's most productive mild winter locations — Terra Pond in Johnson and MidAmerican Power ponds near Council Bluffs, for example — froze up early and yielded little or nothing during the season. Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids had some wintering birds but only because it has a warm water inflow that keeps it open. Overall, very few waterfowl were reported after early December. There were some good gulls, but they were found almost exclusively at Red Rock Reservoir where freeze-up was a few days later than on the more northerly lakes and reservoirs. Two of the most widely reported species were Gray Partridge and Snow Bunting. Both of these become highly conspicuous with snow cover. Several raptors were found in above average numbers. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were frequently reported, as was Merlin. Another species with many reports was Harris's Sparrow, wintering not only in large numbers but somewhat east of its usual winter range. Generally, sparrows wintered in higher than expected numbers, with some, such as Song, White-throated, White-crowned, and Chipping sparrows and Eastern Towhee toughing it out as far north as Mason City. Among the semi-hardy species, Hermit Thrush inexplicably stayed in above average numbers. And, if anyone still thinks that winter finch invasions are tied to harsh winters, think again. Unreported was White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak; and species such as Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Common Redpoll were found only in small numbers. Finally, unlike mild winters where some species begin returning to the state during the end of the winter season, it appears that only a very few waterfowl and perhaps a handful of icterids began trickling back in late February.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Ferruginous Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Greater Prairie Chicken, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, and Lark Bunting, the latter also a first winter record. Casual species include California Gull, Iceland Gull, and Bohemian Wax-wing. Unusually late were Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe, and Swainson's Hawk.

SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

**Pacific Loon:** There was 1 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji in Dickinson Co. (\*LAS, ETH-details).

**Common Loon:** The only report was of 2 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji (ETH).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The only report was from Cedar L. in Linn Co.: 2 on 2 Jan to 1 Feb (MO, JLF) and 1 still there on 4 Feb (THK).

**Red-necked Grebe:** There were 2 on 2 Dec and 1 on 9 Dec at West Okoboji for a third winter record of this species (LAS, ETH).

**Eared Grebe:** All: 1 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS) and 1 on 2 Dec at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (BE).

**American White Pelican:** Up to 8 from 6 to 9 Dec were at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (MPr, AB, JJD) and 6 wintered below the dam at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (DT, BE, JJD).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** All: 12 on 2 Dec at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 3 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Great Blue Heron:** The high Jan/Feb count was 7 on 1 Jan at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). The only reports after the CBC period are 1 on 28 Jan near Marquette in Clayton Co. (MCD), 1 on 2 Dec to 28 Jan at Lime Creek A. near Mason City (CJF, RGo), and 1 until 12 Feb at Mill Creek S.P. in O'Brien Co. (DK).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** There was 1 from 31 Dec to 4 Feb at Cedar L. (MO, THK, JLF). This is the fourth consecutive winter for this species at this location.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** All: 9 on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res (AB), and 1 on 30 Dec on the Boone Co. CBC (\*HZ).

**Snow Goose:** There were 26 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 1 on 27 Dec at Swan Lake S.P. in Carroll Co. (SJD). A single bird on 20 Feb at Saylorville Res. was thought to be an early migrant (DT).

**Ross's Goose:** There was 1 on 7 Dec at S&G Quarry in Iowa City (JLF). A single on 20 Feb at Saylorville Res. was thought to be an early migrant (DT).

**Canada Goose:** There were 10,000 to 15,000 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res (JJD, BE). Sticking it out in Dickinson Co. in northern Iowa were 19 on 10 Feb (JJo). Presumably returning were 1,500 on 18 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Mute Swan:** All: 2 imm. on 11 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res. near Des Moines (PHA/RIA), 2 imm. on 21 Jan at Red Rock Res (RLC-details), 1 on 1 Feb on the Cedar R. in Cedar Rapids (JLF), and 1 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).

**Trumpeter Swan:** The high count was 11 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS); others include 4 ad. and 2 juv. on 8 Dec at Atlantic in Cass Co. (MAP), 4 tagged birds on 10 Dec in the Des Moines R in Van Buren Co. (DKi), 1 on 26 Dec at the Davenport CBC (\*Kelly McKay), 1 untagged ad. from 16 Jan to 18 Feb in the Iowa R. in Iowa City (MCD-details, JLF, CE, THK), and up to 7 through the period at Saylorville Res. (DT, BE, PHA/RIA).

**Wood Duck:** All: 1 male on 28 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).



**Gadwall:** The high counts include 29 on 27 Dec at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (SJD), 20 on 7 Jan in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 22 on 22 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), and 25 on 27 Jan at Brown's L. (BFH). The most northerly were 10 on 28 Jan at Village Creek near Lansing in Allamakee Co. in northeastern Iowa (MCD).

**American Wigeon:** The high count was 14 on 5 Dec at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MO). The only reports after the CBC period are 1 on 28 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 2 on 28 Jan at Village Creek in Allamakee Co. (MCD).

**American Black Duck:** The high counts were 7 on 2 Jan to 1 Feb at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (MO, JLF, THK), and the most northerly were 2 on 4 Dec to 24 Jan on the Winnebago R. near Mason City (RGo). There are five other reports, all from the southern half of the state. A Black Duck x Mallard hybrid was reported on 7 Jan in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**Mallard:** Averaging estimates, there were 17,500 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res. (JJD, BE). The only other counts of more than 50 were 2,000 on 23 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 250 wintering at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD)

**Northern Shoveler:** All: 1 male on 18 and 22 Jan at an aerator in a Grinnell city park, Poweshiek Co. (MPr).

**Green-winged Teal:** All: 5 on 27 Dec (SJD) and 2 on 27 Jan at Brown's L. (BFH).

**Northern Pintail:** All: 1 on 30 Dec on the Iowa R. in Johnson Co. (JLF), 1 through 4 Feb at Terra L. in Polk Co. (DT, BE), and 1 on 24 Feb at Waterman A. in O'Brien Co. (LAS).

**Ring-necked Duck:** There were only 2 reports after the CBC period: 1 on 21 Jan in Iowa City (JLF) and up to 7 on 10 to 28 Feb at Saylorville Res. (DT, BE).

**Lesser Scaup:** There are three reports of single birds in Linn, Appanoose, and Polk Counties.

**Surf Scoter:** The only report is 1 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji (ETH-details, LAS).

**White-winged Scoter:** Both reports are from West Okoboji: 1 male on 2 Dec (LAS, ETH) and 1 fem. or imm. on 6 Dec (ETH).

**Black Scoter:** All: 1 imm. at Keokuk on 2 Dec (AB).

**Long-tailed Duck:** All: 1 imm. on 2 Dec near Keokuk (AB), 1 staying from the fall season to 7 December at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPr, MO), and 1 imm. on 18 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD, AB). For those of you scratching your heads, this species was until recently called Oldsquaw.

**Common Goldeneye:** Only about 50 birds were reported after the CBC period.

**Hooded Merganser:** All: 28 were at Cedar L. on 8 Dec (MCD), 19 there on 2 Jan (MO), and 10 there on 1 Feb (JLF).

**Common Merganser:** The high counts include 600 on 2 Dec on Saylorville Res. (BE, JJD), 80 on 16 Jan at the Lansing Power Plant in Allamakee Co. (DeC), and 131 on 18 Feb at Saylorville (BE).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** All: 4 on 9 Dec at Red Rock Res. (MO).

**Ruddy Duck:** All: 1 on 1 Jan at Cedar L. (THK).

**Bald Eagle:** High counts include 210 on 15 Dec along the Mississippi R. between Muscatine and I-80 (MCD), 82 on 30 Dec at Dubuque (CWi), and 40 on 1 Jan and 30 on 4 Feb at the power plant near Cedar Rapids (THK). A pair apparently on territory in Kossuth Co. may become the county's first nesters (MK).

**Northern Harrier:** There were 4 reports of 6 birds after the CBC period.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** There are about 16 reports from throughout the season and throughout the state. As expected, several stayed around feeders.

**Cooper's Hawk:** There are about 23 reports from throughout the state and throughout the season, including several at feeders. This is more than double the usual number of reports.

**Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 ad. on 19 Dec in Guthrie Co. (RLC), 1 imm. on 22 Dec at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (JLF), 1 imm. on 27 Dec at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. (SJD), 1 ad. on 27 Dec in the Loess Hills W.A. in Monona Co. (SJD), 1 ad. on 4 Jan at the Hawkeye W.A. (JLF), 1 on 5 Jan at Broken Kettle Prairie (BFH), 1 ad. on 13 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 imm. on 21 Jan near Mason City (\*RGo, CJF-details), and 1 on 8 Feb in O'Brien Co. (DKo).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** An ad. on 3 Dec to 10 Feb in Mason City hit a window (CJF-photo, JLW, RGo). Also: 1 on 9 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details) and 1 ad. on 6 Feb at Pine Lake S.P. in Hardin Co. (MPR).

**Swainson's Hawk:** A December report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There were three Harlan's reported, all from the northern half of the state.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The high count was 10 on 3 Feb in Lucas and Warren counties. (JSi).

**Golden Eagle:** All: 1 imm. on 16 Dec at the Clinton CBC (\*Janell Swanberg), 1 on 17 Dec near Madrid in Polk Co. on the Saylorville CBC (Kevin Healy-details), 1 2nd year on 1 Jan at Waterman Creek A. (LAS-details), 1 imm. on 6 Jan in Allamakee Co. (DKo), and 1 ad. on 6 Jan and 19 Feb at Waterman Creek A. (LAS-details).

**Gyr Falcon:** Iowa's second record, a juv. gray morph female, occurred on 21 and 22 Dec west of Ames in Boone Co. (\*SJD-photo, \*JJD, \*MO).

**Merlin:** There were about 18 reported from throughout the season and in all parts of the state, roughly double the average of the past three years. Of those identified to race, 3 were richardsonii and 1 was taiga.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Both were from CBCs: 1 on 27 Dec at North Linn (\*Dale and Helen Fye) and 1 on 30 Dec from Spirit Lake at Spring Run A. in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

**Prairie Falcon:** A bird on 10 Feb near Paulina in O'Brien Co. is the only report (DKo).

**Gray Partridge:** Among 17 reports, the high counts were 10 on 16 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW), 17 on 17 Dec at Spencer (LAS), 14 on 24 Dec in Boone Co. (SJD), 12 on 23 Dec at Boone (BE), 35 on 27 Dec in Webster Co. (TNJ), 33 on 30 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 48 on 1 Jan

in Clay Co. (LAS), and 10 on 11 Feb in Clay Co. (LAS). The most southerly was 1 on 1 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). Snow cover makes this species much more visible and presumably contributed to the high number of reports.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** The high counts came from northwestern Iowa: 260 on 30 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 69 together on 24 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), and groups of up to 85 in the northwest (JJo).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** There was a roadkill on 22 Jan north of Rock Rapids in Sioux County (Marty Eby fide SJD). The identification also was confirmed by Doug Harr, and the specimen is being mounted for display at the Lyon County Conservation Board headquarters.

**Wild Turkey:** The high counts include 71 in 27 Dec at Broken Kettle Preserve in Plymouth Co. (SJD), 58 on 1 Jan at Waterman Creek A. (DKo), 53 on 5 Jan in Plymouth Co. (BFH), and 59 in one flock near Springbrook S.P. in Guthrie Co. (DT).



*Glaucous Gull below Red Rock Dam, on 7 December 2000. Photo by Aaron Brees.*

**American Coot:** All: 2 wintered at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD) and 1 on 31 Dec to 4 Feb at Cedar L. (THK, JLF).

**Common Snipe:** The only January reports were 5 on 16 Dec to 13 Jan at Rathbun Res. (TNJ, RLC), 2 on 16 Jan near Lansing in Allamakee Co. (DeC), and 3 on 22 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). There are no February reports.

**Killdeer:** The high count was 6 on 2 Dec at Montrose in Lee Co. (AB), and the last report is of 1 on 28 Dec in Jackson Co. (CWi).

**California Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Thayer's Gull:** All: 1 2nd winter on 2 Dec at Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (AB), 1 ad. and 2 1st yr. on 3 Dec in Scott Co. (CE), 1 ad. on 4 to 7 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), 1 juv. on 4 Dec. at Red Rock Res (AB), 1 ad. on 7 Dec at Lock and Dam 15 in Scott Co. (JLF), up to 3 1st basic on 4 to 9 Dec at Red Rock Res. (RIA/PHA, MPr-details, JJD, MO, AB), and 1 ad. on 9 Dec at Red Rock Res. (RLC, MO).

**Iceland Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** There was 1 1st basic on 9 Dec at Red Rock Res. (MO, RLC).

**Glaucous Gull:** All: 1 on 2 Dec at L. Minnewashta in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 1st winter bird at Keokuk and another at Ft. Madison on 2 Dec (AB), 1 1st winter on 4 to 7 Dec at Red Rock Res (PHA/RIA, MPr, AB), and 1 on 9 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** All: up to 4 on 30 Dec and 1 on 20 Jan near Montgomery in Dickinson Co. (Doug Harr fide SJD, LAS, ETh), up to 2 on 4 Dec at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. (MPPr-details), 1 on 27 Jan in Liscomb in Marshall Co. (MPPr-details), 3 on 30 Dec west of Ames on the Boone CBD (\*Ralph and Joan Haub), and up to 4 in January west of Ames (Rebecca Shivers-fide JJD).

**Mourning Dove:** Small numbers wintered around the state. The high count was 87 on 1 Jan in Dallas Co. (BE).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Pairs were noted at Spirit Lake — both gray and red phase (ETh), Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, RGo), Appanoose Co. (RLC), Plymouth Co. (BFH), and Adair Co. (MAu).

**Great Horned Owl:** A pale Arctic race bird was in Cerro Gordo Co. on 28 Jan (PHe). Karl Jungbluth noted vocalizations on 6 Jan and a bird on an old Red-tail nest on 4 Feb.

**Snowy Owl:** All: 1 ad. on 30 Dec at the Spirit Lake CBC (LAS), 1 ad. on 6 Jan near May City in Osceola Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD), and a heavily barred immature on 24 Jan near Nevada in Story Co. (JJD, MPPr, MO, HZ).

**Long-eared Owl:** The high counts were 6 on 2 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 3 on 13 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi). Other reports came from Cerro Gordo, Polk, Linn, Marshall, and Johnson counties.

**Short-eared Owl:** All: 3 on 5 Dec north of Fairfield in Jefferson Co. (MO). This is far fewer than in recent winters.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: up to 2 from 9 Dec to 14 Jan at Lime Creek A. near Mason City (CJF, PHe, RGo), 2 on 17 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (SJD), 1 on 8 Jan at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. (MO), 1 on 19 Jan near Lake View in Sac Co. (Larry Kropf fide JJD), 1 on 2 to 3 Feb at Amana Woods in Iowa Co. (JLF), and 1 on 19 Feb at Pleasant Creek A. in Linn Co. (CE).

**Belted Kingfisher:** The only late winter reports are of 1 wintering at the Decorah trout hatchery in Winneshiek Co. (DeC) and 1 on 23 Feb at Pine Lake S.P. in Hardin Co. (MPPr).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** The only late winter reports are of 1 at Ledges S.P. and 1 at the YMCA camp in Boone Co. on 6 Jan (JJD), and 1 on 15 Feb in Tama Co. (MPPr).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** All: 1 on 26 Dec at Missouri Valley in Harrison Co. (RRe).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports came from Johnson, Marshall, Polk, Lucas, Van Buren, and Clayton counties.



*Northern Saw-whet Owl at Lime Creek Nature Area, Mason City, on 9 December 2000. Photo by Carolyn Fischer.*

**Black-billed Magpie:** There was 1 on 7 Dec in at the Hitchcock A. north of Crescent in Pottawattamie Co. (\*Clem Klaphake), and a single bird or birds were seen on 19 to 31 Dec over a four square mile area of Broken Kettle Grassland in Plymouth Co. (RRe, SJD-photo).

**Northern Shrike:** Among about 19 reports, only three were from the southern half of the state: 1 on 17 Dec in Polk Co. (PHe), 1 on 22 Dec in Polk Co. (BE), and 1 on 18 Feb in Washington Co. (DKi). About 12 of the reports are from the northwestern quadrant. This year produced slightly fewer reports than the invasion year averages of 25 during the past two winter seasons.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** By far the most northerly was 1 on 9 Dec at Center L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS-details). Others include 1 on 14 Dec in Poweshiek Co. (MPr-details), and 1 on 18 Feb at Lake Darling S.P. in Washington Co. (DKi).

**Horned Lark:** High counts were 550 on 17 Dec in Dallas Co. (BE), 350 on 27 Jan in O'Brien Co. (LAS), and 1,500 on 18 Feb at a feedlot near Brenton in Dallas Co. (BE).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** High counts were 4 on 2 Dec at Shimek S.E. in Lee Co. (MO), and 2 on 6 Jan at Hooper A. in Warren Co. (JSi). Others include 1 on 17 Dec to 1 Jan in Appanoose Co. (TNJ, RLC), 1 on 7 Jan at Indianola (JSi), 1 on 9 Jan in Hardin Co. (MPr), 1 on 16 Jan in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 1 on 17 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, RGo).

**Brown Creeper:** There were 4 on 20 Jan at the Carroll Cemetery in Carroll Co. (DT) and three reports of singles in northern Iowa.

**Carolina Wren:** Away from the main population was 1 in Dec south of Ames (Nan Geske fide HZ), 1 on 14 to 15 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 1 in Jan north of Ames (John Richards fide HZ), 1 on 5 to 25 Feb at Algona (MK), and 2 on 17 Feb at Ames (Carl Moen fide JJD). Others include 1 in Dec and Jan at Des Moines (PJW), 1 on 16 to 27 Dec in Harrison Co. (RRe), 1 on 27 Dec in Jackson Co. (Jon Pilo fide JJD), 1 on 1 Jan in Johnson Co. (THK), 1 on 1 to 27 Jan in Polk Co. (DT), and 1 through the period in Johnson Co. (JLF). Due to its vulnerability to heavy snow and ice, this is the kind of winter that knocks this species back to Missouri.

**Winter Wren:** All: 1 on 17 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** All: 3 on 2 Dec at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek S.E. in Lee Co. (MO) and 2 on 24 Feb at Indianola (JSi).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** There was 1 on 2 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Mountain Bluebird:** There were two on 10 Dec near Redfield in Dallas Co. (Lannie Miller-details fide JJD).

**Eastern Bluebird:** The most, and the most northwesterly, was up to 20 wintering in O'Brien County (LAS, DKo). There were scattered other reports from southern and eastern Iowa.

**Townsend's Solitaire:** A single bird on 25 Jan at Cincinnati in Appanoose Co. was at a heated water supply (\*Bob and Peggy Seddon).

**Hermit Thrush:** All: 1 on 11 Dec at Spencer (LAS), 1 on 22 Dec near Ames (Jim Pease fide JJD), 1 on 26 Dec at Lake Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 on 6 Jan at Decorah (Elizabeth Lorentzen fide DeC), 1 on 3 Feb at the Lucas Unit of Stevens S.F. in Lucas County (JSi), and 1 on 4 Feb in Van Buren Co. (RLC). It was an above average season for this species.

**American Robin:** Up to 40 wintered in O'Brien Co. in northwestern Iowa (DKo) and 150 were there on 27 Jan (LAS). The other high counts were from southern Iowa: 250 on 16 Dec and 60 on 27 Jan at Rathbun Res (TNJ), 75 on 6 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 60 on 28 Jan in Des Moines (RCe), 50 on 7 Feb in Johnson Co. (THK), and 50 on 21 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Varied Thrush:** All: 1 imm. male on 5 Nov to 5 Jan at Lake View in Sac Co. and on the Sac Co. CBC (Carlotta Buse-photo fide SJD), 1 on 5 Dec at Unionville in Appanoose Co. at a heated water source (\*Jim Ellis-photo fide TNJ), and 1 fem. on 16 to 20 Dec north of Mason City and present for the CBC (\*CJF, PHe, JLW, RGo). This was a slightly above average season for this species.

**Northern Mockingbird:** All: 1 on 22-23 Dec at Urbandale (BE) and 1 on 18 Jan near Muscatine in Louisa Co. (JLF).

**European Starling:** Bery Engebretsen estimated 5,000 at a feedlot in Dallas Co.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** The only report is of 1 on 24 Feb at Waterman Twp. in O'Brien Co. (\*LAS).



*Glaucous Gull at Fort Madison on 2 December 2000. Photo by Aaron Brees.*

**Cedar Waxwing:** Remarkable was the 1,500 on 23 Feb near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. (DKo). Other high counts include 300 on 21 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 350 on 27 Jan and 566 on 19 Feb in Waterman Twp. in O'Brien Co. (LAS), and 110 on 30 Jan in Cedar Falls (MCD).

**Cape May Warbler:** In a surprising reprise of last year's performance, 1 (the same?) bird appeared on 2 Dec at the same Cedar Rapids feeder as last year (MO).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** All: 1 on 22 Dec and 1 Feb at Hawkeye WA. in Johnson Co. (JLF), 6 on 31 Dec and 4 on 28 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 1 on 9 Jan in Ames (Jean Haggert-Dow fide JJD).

**Spotted Towhee:** All: 1 on 30 Dec on the Boone Co. CBC (\*Wolfgang Oesterrich).

**Eastern Towhee:** Unusual in northern Iowa were 1 through the period at Matt Kenne's feeder in Algona, 1 through Dec at the Pat and Ray Johnson feeder in Algona (MK), and 1 on 9 Dec through the period at Lime Creek A. (CJF, \*RGo). Elsewhere, there was 1 on 17 Dec

on the Davenport CBC (\*DDo) and 1 on 30 Dec at the Boone Co. CBC (\*Betty Lou Myers).

**Chipping Sparrow:** All: 1 1st winter on 9 to 16 Dec at Lime Creek A. and the same or another at Mason City on 9 Jan (\*RGo, CJF), and 1 on 17 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (\*MO).

**Field Sparrow:** There was 1 from 22 Dec through the period at Princeton in Scott Co. (ABa).

**Savannah Sparrow:** There were 2 on 17 Dec on the Saylorville CBC (\*RCe).

**Fox Sparrow:** The most northerly was 1 on 4 to 19 Jan in Buchanan Co. (WLV). Others include 1 on 31 Dec near Kent P. in Johnson Co. (THK), 2 on 27 Jan at Rathbun Res. (RLC, TNJ), and 1 on 14 Feb at Urbandale (BE).

**Song Sparrow:** Several wintered in northern Iowa: 5 in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 1 at Mason City (CJF), and 1 at Spirit Lake and up to 3 at the fish hatchery in Dickinson Co. (ETh). Other northern Iowa reports include 1 on 18 Dec in Clayton Co. (CWi), 1 on 30 Dec in Dubuque Co. (CWi), and 3 on 23 Jan at Pine Lake S.P. (MPr).

**Swamp Sparrow:** There were 1 or 2 in Mason City: 1 on 3 to 11 Dec in Carolyn Fischer's yard and 1 on 29 Dec to 1 Jan in Rita Goranson's yard. The other reports are of 1 wintering at Brown's L. (BFH), 12 on 15 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 1 on 27 Dec and 27 Jan at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (SJD, BFH).

**Lark Bunting:** Iowa's first winter record was a basic male on 2 to 6 Jan at Bob Myer's feeder in Perry, Dallas Co. (\*RKM, \*JLF, \*JJD, \*MO, \*PHe, MPr-details).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Unusual was up to 12 through the season at Mason City (CJF, RGo). Other high counts include up to 10 through the period at Princeton in Scott Co. (ABa), 5 during January in Urbandale (BE), and 4 wintering at Winneshiek and Allamakee Co. feeders in northeast Iowa (fide DCe).

**Harris's Sparrow:** This species was reported in large numbers and east of its usual wintering range. High counts include 24 through the period in Appanoose Co. (RLC), up to 9 through Jan in Urbandale (BE), 8 on 29 Jan at Mystic in Appanoose Co. (TNJ), 8 on 25 Jan near Mason City (CJF), 14 on 20 Jan in Algona (MK), and 15 on 31 Jan in Madison Co. (JSi). The most easterly reports are 1 on 8 to 29 Dec at the Larry Reis feeder in Ft. Atkinson, Winneshiek Co. (DeC), up to 2 through 30 Jan at Fairfield in Jefferson Co. (DKi), and 4 at 3 different Johnson County locations between 31 Dec to 13 Feb (THK).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The high count among four reports was 5 through the period at Appanoose Co. (RLC), and the most northerly was 1 on 9 to 13 Jan in Lime Creek A. (RGo, CJF).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** There were three "Oregon" race birds reported.

**Lapland Longspur:** The high count was 105 on 18 Feb at a Brenton feedlot in Dallas Co. (BE). There were 6 other reports from through the season, all of fewer than 25 birds. This is in contrast to the flocks of 1,000 or more often reported during the winter season.

**Snow Bunting:** Widely reported from throughout the season, but the only ones to make it to the southern three tiers of counties were 2 on 31 Dec in Jefferson Co. (DKi). High counts include 120 on 14 Dec in Benton Co. (CWi), 350 on 30 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 350 on 4 Jan in Floyd Co. (PHe), 120 on 26 Jan in Story Co. (MPr), 200 on 27 Jan in Kossuth Co. (CJF), 125 on 11 Feb at Dan Green Slough in Clay Co. (LAS), and 500 on 18 Feb in Dallas Co. (BE).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** High counts include 48 on 1 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), 200 on 21 Jan at Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (JJD), and 21 on 24 Jan in Worth Co. (CJF, JLW). The 5 birds on 12 and 17 Feb at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. were thought to be early migrants (BFH).

**Meadowlark spp.:** The high count was 23 on 11 Dec on a Warren Co. roadside (JSi). Mid-winter reports came from Woodbury and O'Brien Counties. The 2 on 28 Feb near Fairfield may have been returning migrants (DKi).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** The Jamaica CBC produced an ad. male on 19 Dec at L. Panorama (\*Chad Paup).

**Rusty Blackbird:** There were two reports after the CBC period: up to 10 from 24 Dec through the period in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 2 on 7 Jan in Henry Co. (DKi).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** There were three from the CBCs at Saylorville, Shenandoah, and Decorah. The only report from after the CBC period is of 1 on 24 Feb in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

**Common Grackle:** The most northerly were 4 or 5 on 14 Jan to 16 Feb at Lime Creek A. near Mason City (CJF, PHe).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** The only report was of 121 on the Omaha CBC but in Iowa.

**Purple Finch:** All: up to 3 through the period at Fuller's feeder in Johnson Co. (JLF), 10 on 7 Jan in Boone Co. (KJ), 4 on 17 Jan in Marshall Co. (MPr), 1 on 27 Jan in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 18 on 4 Feb in Van Buren Co. (RLC), 1 on 4 Feb in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK), and 5 on 19 Feb in O'Brien Co. (LAS). This was a meager year for this species.

**House Finch:** There were two counts that exceeded 40 birds

**Red Crossbill:** All: 2 ad. males on 2 Dec at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek S.E. in Lee Co. (MO), a pair at the Laurie Perkins feeder in Algona (MK), 1 on 20 Jan at Davenport (DDo), 13 on 21 Jan at the Hooper A. in Warren Co. (JSi), and 5 on 7 to 8 Feb at Denison in Crawford Co. (Terry Hulsebus fide JJD).

**White-winged Crossbill:** No reports.

**Redpoll:** All: 7 during Dec in Missouri Valley in Harrison Co. (RRe), 1 on 17 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (PHe, Anthony Hertzler-details), 12 on 1 Jan at the Judy Havlik feeder in Algona (MK), 1 on 8 Jan in Boone Co. (MO), and 1 on 9 Feb at Bondurant in Polk Co. (Carol Coates fide HZ).

**Pine Siskin:** There were 7 during Dec in Missouri Valley (RRe). From 1 to 5 were reported from Dickinson, Cerro Gordo, Hardin, Poweshiek, and Johnson counties.



**American Goldfinch:** The high counts were 70 on 4 Feb in Van Buren Co. (RLC), and 33 on 11 Dec in Cass Co. (MAP).

**Evening Grosbeak:** No reports.

**House Sparrow:** There was a melanistic male on 14 Jan to 25 Feb at Algona (MK).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** At a new location and the most northwesterly to date were 3 on 2 to 3 Feb and 2 on 7 Feb at Barb Boyle's in northwestern Johnson Co. (JLF, THK). There were 6 on 18 Jan at Muscatine (JLF).

#### COMMENT

First, and as always, many thanks to all of you who not only managed to do some birding this winter, but who also sent in field reports. Despite the adverse birding conditions, I received about the same number of reports as in past years, although most reports were smaller both in terms of species diversity and numbers of birds seen. Without exception, the reports were received on time, making the meeting of my deadlines much easier.

#### CONTRIBUTORS (\* = DOCUMENTATION ONLY)

Pam H. Allen (PHA)	West Des Moines
Reid I. Allen (RIA)	West Des Moines
Margaret Augustine (MAu)	Eagan, MN
Ann Barker (ABa)	Princeton
Aaron Brees (AB)	Corydon
Dennis Carter (DeC)	Decorah
Robert Cecil (RCe)	Des Moines
Ray Cummins (RLC)	Centerville
Jim Dinsmore (JJD)	Ames
Steve Dinsmore (SJD)	Ft. Collins, CO
Michael C. Dooley (MCD)	Cedar Rapids
Dan Dorrance (DDo)	Rock Island, IL
Chris Edwards (CE)	North Liberty
*Jim Ellis	Unionville
Bery Engebretsen (BE)	Urbandale
Carolyn Fischer (CJF)	Mason City
Jim Fuller (JLF)	Iowa City
*Dale and Helen Fye	Cedar Rapids
Rita Goransen (RGo)	Mason City
Dennis Henrickson (DHe)	Estherville
Paul Hertzel (PHe)	Mason City
Bill Huser (BFH)	South Sioux City, NE
Tom Johnson (TNJ)	Mystic
*Darrin Jones	Honey Creek

Jack Jones (JJo)	Sioux City
Karl Jungbluth (KJ)	Boone
Matt Kenne (MK)	Algona
Tom Kent (THK)	Iowa City
Dave Killman (DKi)	Fairfield
*Clem Klaphake	Bellvue, NE
Darwin Koenig (DKo)	Paulina
*Kelly McKay	Moline, IL
*Bob Myers	Perry
*Wolfgang Oesterreich	Ames
Mike Overton (MO)	Ames
Marietta Peterson (MAP)	Walnut
Mark Proescholdt (MPr)	Liscomb
Russ Reisz (RRe)	Karlstad, MN
Lee Schonewe (LAS)	Spencer
*Bob and Peggy Seddon	Cincinnati
Jim Sinclair (JSi)	Indianola
*Janelle Swanberg	Clinton
Ed Thelen (ETh)	Spirit Lake
Dennis Thompson (DT)	Johnston
Wendy L. Van De Walle (WLV)	Brandon
Phil Walsh (PJW)	Des Moines
Jan Walter (JLW)	Mason City
Charles Winterwood (CWi)	Dubuque
Hank Zalatel (HZ)	Nevada.

## Records from the Past: Chestnut-collared Longspur, House Finch, and Clark's Grebe

Thomas H. Kent

*The Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was formed in 1980 to review records of rare birds. From 1980 through 1999, the committee reviewed 1,489 records, including all published historical records of rare birds dating back to*

1819. Many of the historical records were not accepted because they lacked details — the rare species often were found on lists along with more common species. Since 1980, the records reviewed were based on written descriptions and/or photographs.



T. H. Kent

The year 1999 provided a nice cutoff to package these records in taxonomic order and to archive duplicate copies at the Iowa State Historical Society in Des Moines and the Special Collections Department of the Iowa State University Library in Ames. Other materials to be deposited at the library in Ames include the original votes and comments by Records Committee members, documentations of birds that were not reviewed by the committee, most of the quarterly field reports submitted to Field Reports Editors since the 1970s, and photographs submitted with field reports or documentations.

The year 1999 also was an appropriate time for archiving the records because Ann Johnson, the new secretary of the Records Committee, is updating record keeping and management procedures to take advantage of the advances in computer and internet technology. The records being archived are filed in chronological order by species. For each record, a computer generated cover sheet provides the details of the record, references, votes, and comments by the reviewers. Behind the cover sheet are articles about the bird, documentations, and photographs, depending on which were available. In most instances, original photograph are in the IOU Photofile.

As part of the review process for most of the accepted records after 1980, one or more of those who saw the bird were asked to write a "note" on the sighting to be published in *Iowa Bird Life*. Compliance was variable. Now seems like an appropriate time to publish information on the more important records for which a note was not submitted. In a series of articles, I proposed to present grammatically edited quotes or paraphrased information from the original descriptions and reviewers comments along with any photographs that are available. I will start with unpublished, first-accepted records for the state and follow with rare or particularly important records. I will not attempt to put these reports in any particular order.

During the review process, the names of the Records Committee members are not associated with their votes and comments, and I will continue that practice. This does, however, give me the opportunity to list the people who have served on the committee and to thank them for their efforts in providing peer review of rare bird sightings in Iowa during the 20 years that I served as secretary.

Members of the IOU Records Committee and years served:

James J. Dinsmore, 1980–1985  
Thomas H. Kent, 1980–1989, 1991–  
Darwin Koenig, 1980–1984  
Michael C. Newlon, 1980–1982  
Peter C. Petersen, 1980–1989  
Thomas K. Shires, 1980–1981  
W. Ross Silcock, 1980–1990, 1994–1999  
Joseph P. Schaufenbuel, 1981–1985  
Barbara L. Wilson, 1983–1988  
Robert K. Myers, 1985–1988  
Carl J. Bendorf, 1985–1991  
Francis L. Moore, 1986–1997  
Stephen J. Dinsmore, 1988–1989  
Raymond C. Cummins, 1988–1996  
Robert I. Cecil, 1989–1994, 1998–  
Mark Proescholdt, 1989–1992  
Eugene Armstrong, 1989–1993  
Tanya E. Bray, 1990–1995  
Ann M. Johnson, 1993–1998  
Tim Schantz, 1995–1995  
Chris Edwards, 1995–  
James L. Fuller, 1996–  
Matthew C. Kenne, 1997–  
Jim Sinclair, 1999–

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, 4 APRIL 1982, MUSCATINE COUNTY, JAMES J. HUNTINGTON, (82-01)

Chestnut-collared Longspur currently is considered an accidental spring migrant in Iowa, especially in western Iowa; however, its occurrence might be casual or even regular if enough effort could be made to look for it in March and April. There are seven specific and four indefinite records prior to 1940 that lack sufficient details for identification, but suggest that this species' occurrence in Iowa probably has not changed.

The first accepted record of this species occurred just inside the western edge of Muscatine County on 4 April 1982. James Huntington, the only observer, describes his experience, "My quest was to see a Smith's Longspur, which would be a life bird. I asked a farmer, Mr. Wright, if I could bird-watch on his land after seeing flocks of longspurs from the road.

"On Sunday, 4 April 1982, I climbed the fence and started to walk east on the short grassy field. It was sunny although cold and windy. I walked northeast to a gate and into the next field to the east, which was corn stubble. I saw a flock come down in the northeast corner of this field. I moved slowly in an arc to try to see the flock with the sun and wind behind me.

"As I approached the flock, I could see Lapland Longspurs, many in breeding plumage with their black heads and breasts, very white bellies, and yellowish lines from their eyes. It was easy (I thought) to tell a Lapland at a glance, noting especially how white their bellies were. I was looking for birds that were buffy.

"Many of the Laplands had moved away from me just across the fence to the adjacent field of corn stubble, when my attention was directed to the sound of a bird sitting on a small stalk. This bird was uniformly buffy below! I heard the 'clicking' noise to my right and noticed a bird had landed on the fence. It too was very buffy below. The two birds chatted together for a few seconds, when a third bird came in for a landing on my side of the fence, clicking as it came. I could see white on the sides of the tail and on the shoulder. This bird also was buffy below.

"After those three birds left, I moved ahead toward the field where most of the Laplands were foraging. Four birds landed on the fence ahead and to the left of me. One bird was white and black, so I concentrated on the three buffy birds. The birds hopped to my side of the fence along the grassy border of the field.

"Though I had seen my first Smith's Longspur, I still hoped to find one in breeding plumage. Those birds seen so far were obviously Smith's Longspurs, with very buffy underparts (some were quite orange), white on tail and shoulder; some even had the cheek patch, although only in shades of brown, not in black and white.

"After looking at the three Smith's, I again glanced at what I had originally thought to be a Lapland Longspur. But this bird was not quite right. It had yellow on the face where it should have been black! It had yellow on the face, which did not run up the back of the head. I slowly approached. It was smaller than the nearby

Smith's. It had a black line from the eye. Above and below this black line were white lines. The top of the head was black with a slight whitish median line. The chin and throat were yellow. Below the yellow throat was a black belly, beginning sharply, continuing much lower than the black of the Lapland Longspur.

"I checked my Peterson guide to compare his picture of the Chestnut-collared Longspur with my bird. They were almost exactly the same except my bird had a little white mixed in with the black of the belly. I got even closer. The Smith's Longspurs flushed; the Chestnut-collared Longspur crouched. I took another few steps; the bird flushed. I did not notice so much the white on the tail as I did notice a very striking black triangle.

"I was now cold. I walked back to the car to record what I had seen, pleased with the life bird Smith's Longspur and delighted to see the beautiful Chestnut-collared Longspur again."

The discovery of Smith's Longspur in 1981 and every year since led to Huntington's serendipitous discovery of the Chestnut-collared Longspur. James wrote this note at my request after the record had been accepted based on information in his documentation. It was submitted to a previous editor of *Iowa Bird Life* but not published.

HOUSE FINCH, 3 JUNE 1982, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WALLACE JARDINE (82-21)

House Finch, a native species of western North America, was introduced in the east about 1940 and gradually spread from Long Island in all directions (Cecil and Dinsmore 1995). All of Iowa's neighboring states experienced their first records before Iowa's first sighting in northwestern Iowa.

Wallace and Betty Jardine were the first to note this species at their thistle and sunflower seed feeders near Pocahontas from 4:30 to 4:40 and 6:00 to 6:45 P.M. on 3 June 1982.

Wallace wrote, "A sparrow-sized bird feeding with Goldfinches first caught my eye. This bird had a sparrow-colored back with a raspberry wash to the rump. A great deal of raspberry was noted around the head, but the top of the head and back of the head and neck were gray/brown, the same as the back. The breast was raspberry giving way to a belly of light gray with heavy streaks at the sides. This bird was not as flighty or nervous as the weaver finches or goldfinches with which it was feeding. I watched this bird for 45 minutes as it fed at the feeder and flew to nearby trees."

The raspberry color, which is more typical of Purple Finch as compared to the red or orange-red color of House Finch, bothered

three members of the committee. The brown on top of the head and back, side streaks, and occurrence in June do not fit Purple Finch. With three more records in 1982, the committee members mended their overly conservative judgments to accept this as the first state record in spite of the misleading "raspberry" color.

CLARK'S GREBE, 5 MAY 1983, CONE MARSH, LOUISA COUNTY,  
JAMES P. SANDROCK (83-22)

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist Committee split Clark's Grebe from Western Grebe in 1985. This split had been rumored for some time. James P. Sandrock, who was birding with James J. Huntington at Cone Marsh in Louisa County on 5 May 1983, documented Iowa's first record in anticipation of the split.

"The bird was significantly larger than Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, and Horned Grebe. The bird rode low in the water, revealing a slate-gray back and a long neck that was white in front, but very black on the back. The black of the nape extended over the head to form a black cap, which covered the top of the head and extended down the face to just above a red eye. The black of the neck and cap contrasted starkly with the shining whiteness of the throat and lower face; the white of the face extended just slightly above eye. The bill was bright yellow, long, and sharply pointed. The gonys was long and, of course, tapering. There was some discernible white between the bill and eye. Wings, belly, legs, and feet could not be observed. The tail appeared very short when the bird dived. The breast was white, which extended up to the throat. From the rear, the black head appeared to be triangular in shape. No sound was heard from the bird. Diving behavior was typical of Podicipedidae. Many dives were timed; the longest dive lasted 65 seconds; the average dive lasted 35 seconds."

The white over the eye, white lores, and yellow bill are the key field marks here. The bill color is usually described as orange-yellow and brighter than the dull green-yellow bill of Western Grebe. Although Clark's Grebe is still classified as accidental in Iowa, based on the recent pattern of records in Iowa and surrounding states, it is likely to be considered casual in the near future.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Cecil, B. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1995. Range extension of the House Finch in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 65:61-68.

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# Anhinga at Dudgeon Park in Benton County

Francis L. Moore

*I was birding at Dudgeon Park in Benton County with Tom Schilke of Waterloo on 14 May 2000. We had birded the area and were close to the end of the main trail between two oxbows when an Anhinga flew over the treetops from the right and soared over the trees for about 45 seconds at 10:22 A.M. It then flew behind the trees where it had first appeared. It did not beat its wings as it changed directions several times and we were able to see both dorsal and vertical views of the bird.*

During the rest of the time the bird was soaring in front of us. I had it in the field of view of my binoculars. The first field mark that I saw was the long, slightly flared, brownish-black tail with a thin, tan trailing edge (tip). The body was very slim with an extremely thin tan neck and head. The bill was fairly long, very thin and needle-like, and a yellowish-orange color. The tan neck was slightly kinked about halfway down its length and the tan coloration came farther down the breast than I expected for this species. The head was small and hard to see as it merged with the neck. The bill also had a slight upward look to it and did not have any kind of hook at the end. The lower breast, belly, and vent area was black. The primaries and secondaries were dark gray from both above and below. The back upper and lower wing coverts were black. There was a large patch of white in the black upper wing coverts on each wing but it did not extend onto the back. The wings looked fairly long and had a thinner (not wide) look to them as compared to a Cormorant.

No Cormorant has a yellow-orange, needle-like bill without a hook. The tan on the breast had a well defined border where it met the black of the lower breast. Cormorants do not have a long-necked, long-tailed look with a slim, contoured body like this bird. No Cormorant has white patches on the upper wing coverts. Cormorants also do not have a tan tip to the tail. This appeared to be a female Anhinga.



I called several people to see if anyone else could look at the bird but, as far as I know, no one else was able to relocate it. Tom Schilke, who was with me, did not get a very good look at the bird either.

336 Fairfield Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.com)

## Timothy J. Schantz — 1964–2001

*by Ann Johnson*



*J. Schantz*

"Hey Ann! It's Tim!" Those simple words always brightened an otherwise any-old-kind-of-day because I knew the conversation would ultimately lead to the feeding of my alter-ego, that free spirit of adventure where anything was possible if you only had the guts to give it a shot.

Tim may not have been my first-born, but once I got to know him he became "my eldest." His excitement about the world around him, particularly birds, was contagious. We first got acquainted when he was a student at Simpson College and the Bird Banding Lab asked me for a reference. Being a somewhat rational person, I thought it best to at least meet this unknown person before vouching for his ability to identify and band birds. That first encounter led me to many an adventure both in reality and vicariously through him.

Tim packed more into 36 years than most of us will experience in a lifetime. After graduation from Simpson he worked one winter at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge where he achieved good standing with the birding community at large by identifying the first U.S. record of Crane Hawk. Some of you may remember his banquet program at the IOU meeting in Indianola in 1991 when he showed us pictures from his experiences on the Farallon Islands as a part of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory bird study program. He struggled with a decision to miss his twin brother's wedding because he had the

chance to do seabird studies on a boat in the South Pacific. His stories of being locked in a roadside jail cell in Venezuela and driving through the Mexican state of Chiapas shortly after the Zapatista uprising were spell-binding.

At one point this free spirit tried to settle down a bit and he became the naturalist for the Marion County Conservation Board. In 1995, he contributed his talents to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union as a member of the Board of Directors and of the Records Committee. Between doing public and school programs, creating a butterfly garden, remodeling the office, and planning for the new cabins at Cordova Park, he always found time to jump in the car and drive many miles to chase a new bird. Many of us joined him from time to time in those pursuits. While living at Cordova Park he added immensely to our body of knowledge of the birds of Red Rock Reservoir. Ironically, he missed the first Ross's Gull at Red Rock because he was birding in Alaska.

In 1994, Tim and I flew to New Jersey for a pelagic trip. A good friend was so impressed with Tim's skills that he planted some thoughts with tour operators he knew. But Tim never did things the easy way. In 1996, he headed for new adventures in Alaska where he tagged salmon in the summers to help with an aerial fish survey. Life in the wilderness suited him just fine and along the way he added to the understanding of birds in Alaska. Winters found him aboard fishing vessels in the angry Bering Sea, not only counting fish but observing tidbits like a Peregrine Falcon perched with a Whiskered Auklet in its talons.

Recent winters found Tim off the ocean and working with the Rural Alaska Community Action Program to repair schools and community buildings in native Alaskan villages. Those villagers mourn his loss as much as we in the birding community do. But it was Alaskan summers that Tim lived for. From the shorebird festivals at Homer and Cordova to searching for the Gray-headed Chickadee on the Arctic tundra; from the nesting Boreal Owl near his home in Anchorage to the daily surprises on Gambell, there were birds to see and people who wanted to see them. No doubt because of his work with native Alaskans and their mutual respect for each other, Tim was able to establish his credibility on Gambell and as he told me on the phone one night a year or so ago, "Yep, I'm known as Mr. Gambell now." Alaska Wilderness Adventures took notice and hired him as a tour guide. Last year, as he was beginning to fulfill his dream of showing people the birds they would pay him to find for them, he set the Alaska Big Year record.

Tim was a lister but I think it was more than a game to him. As his brother said in a beautiful tribute: "Tim lived his life as though he knew it would be short, not irresponsibly so, but with an urgency for the things he valued. Tim would drive 1,200 miles for a chance to see a rare bird. To Tim it was simple — this could be his only chance to see this bird in his lifetime and he wasn't about to let 1,200 miles stop him." Last fall Tim was provided the opportunity to bird a mecca for listers. It was the last trip to Attu and he was asked to join the staff as a "laborer" — to tear down the camp. By week two he was a leader, relating to the people who had spent several thousand dollars for the experience and showing them birds he had never seen before. This was what he loved most. He had made it!

Tim Schantz died suddenly of a heart attack on 27 May 2001 at the Nome airport, appropriately enough waiting for a flight to Gambell. Recognizing his passion for birds, his parents, Dean and Kit Schantz of Winterset, have established the Tim Schantz Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to a student of ornithology. Contributions may be sent to the Union State Bank, 201 Court, Winterset, IA 50273.

532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211-9455  
(hologrambirds@att.net)

## Book Review

Richard Hollis

*Restoring North American Birds: Lessons from Landscape Ecology* by Robert A. Askins. Illustrations by Julie Zickefoose. 2000. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut and London. 320 pp., including 13-page appendix with scientific names and footnotes, 33-page bibliography, and 13-page index.

Nine of the ten chapters discuss specific biomes: grasslands of the East Coast, the Great Plains, eastern thickets, etc. The last chapter is a summary. Each chapter begins with an illustration by Julie Zickefoose. These lovely line drawings of a characteristic bird in the chapter's biome provide the reader with an idea of the habitat.

This is an academic book and is challenging to read. Growing up in the eastern United States and receiving my ecological education based on Odum's 1959 *Fundamentals of Ecology*, 2nd ed., I was aware that fire was important in maintaining prairies and some other biomes. I was unaware of the degree to which America, prior to European contact, was characterized by a patchwork pattern of various vegetation types, forming a mosaic of vegetation. *Restoring North American Birds* explains that these vegetational mosaics were important in many kinds of biomes. In fact, a mosaic of mixed-age vegetation characterized most preEuropean vegetation in North America. The mosaics were caused by fire, wind, beaver, and many other factors. These mosaics probably were very important in maintaining a region's characteristic bird populations. Askins discusses the difficulty of managing for vegetational mosaics when habitats are interrupted by roads, farms, and are owned by multiple land owners with modern day financial concerns.

It is unfortunate that the footnotes include both literature citations and information supplemental to the text. In Chapter 4 there are 78 footnotes, 76 of which cite references, while only two are informational. Many general readers want to read the footnotes with supplemental information and would prefer to have the literature citations provided at the back of the book.

Those readers who are interested in the more technical sections will gain a great deal of knowledge. Even those readers who choose to skip or skim parts of the book will still learn something.

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(rhollis@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu)

## **Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life**

*James J. Dinsmore*

*The lead article consisted of four short stories about bird watching by William Youngworth of Sioux City. Several are amusing and include his experiences while pheasant hunting with several other men. Youngworth's attention to the task at hand wandered a few times when he stopped to look at some*

*interesting birds. His partners were not amused when he missed some good shots at pheasants as a result of this distraction.*

A short note on photographing owls included fine photographs of a Long-eared Owl and a Northern Saw-whet Owl, both taken by a youthful Thomas H. Kent of Iowa City. This was his first contribution to *Iowa Bird Life*. Tom's articles in *Iowa Bird Life* have now spanned 50 years and have contributed significantly to our knowledge of Iowa's birds.

The longest article in this issue, written by Henry Birkeland of Roland, is an index to ornithologists who were born in Iowa, made ornithological studies in Iowa, or were members of the IOU who died from 1923 to 1951. For each, the date and place of birth and death are listed along with a reference to where a biographical sketch or obituary has been published. A total of 99 persons is listed in this useful index.

Among the notes in this issue is one describing a King Eider taken on the Mississippi River near New Boston, Illinois in November 1950.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, Iowa 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

## **Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Board Meeting**

*25 March 2001*

*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Board of Directors met in Marshalltown on 25 March 2001. Board members in attendance included Mark Proescholdt (presiding), Judy Garton, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson, Tom Johnson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib, and Phil Walsh. Also in attendance were David Edwards, Paul Hertzell, and Hank and Linda Zaletel. Mark Proescholdt called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M.*

Linda Zaletel said that Neotropic 1 books worth \$400 were sold at the meeting in Tucson, Arizona last fall. This year the National

Association of Interpretations meeting will be held in Des Moines on 8 November 2001. Linda asked the IOU to sponsor a booth for her at the meeting for \$150. The board approved this request.

Paul Hertzell, the new IOU newsletter editor, gave the board an update on his progress in transferring newsletter editorial responsibilities. The first newsletter was at the printer. He gave the board his budget request for the year.

Hank Zaletel mentioned that many of the old things in the treasurer's boxes had gone to the Iowa State University (ISU) archives. Also, Hank sent Historical Committee materials to the ISU Archives.

Dave Edwards, IOU Registrar, has made new brochures for IOU. The board talked about providing IOU membership forms to county conservation boards, nature centers, and national wildlife refuges. Dave had compiled membership classes and information for the board. He also has a new membership list, which was passed around.

New members were approved for three IOU committees by the board. New members for the Publication Committee are Bob Cecil, Jim Dinsmore, and Hank Zaletel. Maridel Jackson was approved as a new member of the Membership Committee. The Records Committee selected Paul Hertzell to fill the remaining years of Bob Cecil's term when Bob resigned. Lee Schoenewe was approved for a full term on the Records Committee.

Kay Niyo, *IBL* editor, sent a letter and a budget request for 2001. The cost of printing the journal has increased significantly from the last editor's costs. This is a result of a totally different manner of printing. It is electronic printing and is the way most printing is done now. The board discussed this budget for some time and then decided to discuss other topics.

The Iowa birdline was discussed. Jim Fuller has managed it for over 12 1/2 years and wants to turn it over for someone else to do. Several names were mentioned as possibilities. Ann Barker, spring bird count editor, has decided to continue in that capacity.

Proescholdt stated that the IOU Nominating Committee has chosen candidates for the Spring 2001 meeting: president, Phil Walsh; vice president, Tom Johnson; board members, Sharon Stilwell, Dick Tetrault, and Linda Zaletel.

Paul Zeph, Iowa Audubon director, had contacted Proescholdt and talked about a possible fall 2002 joint meeting in central Iowa.

The Iowa Nature Conservancy had contacted Proescholdt last winter about a fall 2001 "Conservation Festival" possibility. Proescholdt had declined the invitation to plan for this because he thought the board needed to discuss it first.

Dick Tetrault's idea and request for IOU to sponsor birding trips outside the state was discussed again briefly. In light of IOU's budget constraints, the suggestion was dismissed at this time.

Jane Clark asked Proescholdt to talk about Iowa Audubon's Important Bird Areas program. This is just getting started in Iowa and will work to identify areas of significance to bird species in Iowa.

Rita Goranson gave the treasurer's report. The board discussed asking IOU members for contributions for project funds in light of the tight annual budget.

The board discussed the budget for quite some time. The board cut out this year's project fund monies and decided to cash in the certificate of deposit that was due on 31 March 2001 and add it to the checking account. The board approved the 2001 budget.

Tom Johnson discussed having a legislative committee to deal with issues of importance to IOU. The board talked about this briefly.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT — 2000, RITA GORANSON, TREASURER

#### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

##### SUPPORT AND REVENUES

##### SUPPORT (Contributions and Gifts)

Iowa Bird Line	718.00	
Unspecified Contributions	395.00	
Spring Meeting Excess	156.12	
Total Contributions and Gifts		\$1,269.12

##### REVENUES (Members, Actual Deposits for 2000 Year)

##### Memberships/Subscriptions

Regular Member	11,020.00	
First Family Member	436.00	
Second Family Member	26.00	
Student Member	60.00	
Life Member	1,275.00	
Institutional Subscribers	1,160.00	
Total Membership Revenue		13,977.00

##### Sales

IOU Materials	349.95	
Education Books	631.00	
Total Sales Revenue		980.95

##### Interest Income

Checking Account	29.97	
Total Interest income		29.97

##### Refunds

Refund on Membership	20.00	
Total Refund Income		20.00

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES

\$16,277.04

# EXPENSES

Publications Committee		
<i>Iowa Bird Life</i>	10,800.00	
IOU Newsletter	1,304.26	
Total Publications Committee		12,104.26
President	72.00	
Registrar	523.13	
Iowa Bird Line	255.51	
Iowa Academy of Science Project	320.00	
IOU Materials (hats and shirts)	243.88	
IOU Internet Site	449.55	
Savings Account Opened	300.00	
Records Committee	61.43	
Fall Meeting Expense	45.54	
Outside Project	3,086.86	
Bonding Company Expense	225.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$17,687.16
EXCESS EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUES		\$1,410.12

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in Bank (Note 1)	\$5,629.37	
Certif. of Deposit #1	27,987.87	
Certif. of Deposit #2	2,767.92	
Certif. of Deposit #3	2,775.14	
Certif. of Deposit #4	2,844.77	
Savings Account	244.71	
Total Current Assets, 31 December 2000		\$42,249.78

### FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon	1,512.05	
Book Royalties	2,865.34	
Endowment Fund	4,941.39	
Project Fund	390.71	
Total Endowment Fund		\$9,709.49
Life Memberships	11,077.50	
Birdline Fund	1,156.18	
Meeting Reimbursement Fund	734.75	
Adopt-A-Book Fund	2,302.00	
Total of Specific Funds		15,270.43
General Operating Funds		17,269.86
Total Fund Balance, 31 December 2000		\$42,249.78





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## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds*, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



#### OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

**Phil Walsh**, President (2003), 137 51st Street, Des Moines, IA 50312

**Tom Johnson**, Vice President, (2003), P.O. Box 1045, Centerville, IA 52544

**Jane Clark**, Secretary (2002), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325

**Rita Goranson**, Treasurer (2002), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401

**Board of Directors:** **Judy Garton** (2002), **James Scheib** (2002), **Sharon Stilwell** (2003), **Dick Tetrault** (2003), **Linda Zaletel** (2003)

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Publications:** Hank Zaletel (Chair) (2006), Robert I. Cecil (2005), James J. Dinsmore (2004), Jim Durbin (2002), Harold White (2003)

**Records:** Ann M. Johnson (secretary), Paul Hertzelt (2004), James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Thomas H. Kent (2006), Lee Schoenewe (2007), James Sinclair (2005)

**Membership:** Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson

**Library/Historical:** Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Fall 2001, 7–9 September, Carroll, Iowa

#### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

**Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March** (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

**Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June** (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckek@rconnect.com)

**Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August** (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

**Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December** (Paul Hertzelt, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzelt@connect.com)



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#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521, (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu).

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 (pkernzen@pionet.net)

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Peter Ernzen checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

#### IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertz, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836 (phertz@rconnect.com)

#### REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

#### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



